

LOST
&
FOUND

DRIVE-IN
THEATERS
THRIVE
ACROSS
STATE

OKLAHOMA TODAY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1999

\$3.95

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT

AN
OKLAHOMA
TODAY
PHOTO
CONTEST

HAUNTED MAMMALS

GORDON GRICE TAKES A
CLOSER LOOK AT BATS

A POET IN BLACKNESS

CHOOSING QUALITY OVER
QUANTITY, MELVIN TOLSON WROTE
LITTLE BUT LOOMS LARGE

ROWING YOUR BOAT

A GUIDE TO CANOEING
IN OKLAHOMA



www.oklahomatoday.com

**Nobody understands you quite as well as
the people you've grown up with.**



For as long as you can remember, one company has been there, providing reliable phone service. So when you're thinking about **wireless** service, it just makes sense to stick with Southwestern Bell. After all, who else would you trust to give you the **technology** that allows you to use your phone wherever and whenever? Who else would offer the latest in wireless service, like the **Digital Edge**, which gives you crystal-clear **call quality**? Who else would provide friendly, dedicated and responsive **customer support**? And of course, you know you can always count on us for flexible and **competitive rate plans**. So remember, when you're ready for wireless, you've already got the right connections.

friendly. neighborhood. global.  **Southwestern Bell**

Call 720-0411 or visit www.swbellwireless.com.

A State Of Excellence.



Every day, PSO provides safe and reliable power to over 480,000 customers in 224 Oklahoma towns and cities at some of the lowest rates in the state. In fact, PSO rates are 37% lower than the national average. Of course, our dedication doesn't stop with being a good service provider. In every PSO town and city, employee volunteers work year-round to create better neighborhoods — and a better Oklahoma for all of us. PSO is



proud to be a part of every community we serve. PSO and you, sharing a state of excellence.

PSO

Public Service Company of Oklahoma
A Central and South West Company

THANKS TO PHILLIPS, WEARY TRAVELERS
WILL ALWAYS HAVE A PLACE TO STOP AND REFUEL.



By donating a former plant site to the Cactus Playa Lake Project, Phillips Petroleum helped expand and protect the habitat of hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. The project resulted from the cooperative effort of Phillips, wildlife and conservation agencies and the

community of Cactus, Texas. Now bald eagles, waterfowl and dozens of other bird species have a better place to rest along the Central Flyway. It's yet another example of what it means to be The Performance Company.

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY



For a copy of our annual report, call 918-661-3700, write to: Phillips Annual Report, B-41, Adams Bldg., Bartlesville, OK 74004, or visit us at www.phillips66.com.



September • October 1999
Volume 49 • Number 6

A U T U M N I S S U E

FEATURES

- LOST IN ROBBERS CAVE** 28
Joel Everett recalls a summer day from his childhood while hiking through Robbers Cave State Park. Photography by Michael Hardeman
- GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT** 32
The Oklahoma Today Photo Contest.
- CINEMA UNDER THE STARS** 34
Surveying the state's open-air theaters. By Kelly Crow
- HEART OF BLACKNESS** 38
The life and literature of poet Melvin B. Tolson. By David Stanley Clark
- SUNDOWN AT THE SELMAN BAT CAVE** 44
Mexican free-tailed bats find sanctuary at a secret cave near Alabaster Caverns. By Gordon Grice
- ROWING ONCE, ROWING TWICE** 52
Canoeing—your guide to the best waters and operators around. By George Lang
- HEAVE-HOE!** 72
OSU botanists suggest plants and trees that work best in the Oklahoma climate. Plus, tips for getting your garden winterized. By Louisa McCune

DEPARTMENTS

- CONTRIBUTORS** 4
- FROM THE EDITOR** 6
- LETTERS** *Ellen Jonsson, Larry Gentry* 8
- MARKET PLACE** *Light Ideas* 10
- ACROSS THE RANGE** 12
- WEEKENDS** *Claremore* 26
- FOOD** *Counter Culture* 56
- CALENDAR** 62

Cover: Lake Carlton at Robbers Cave State Park by Michael Hardeman. This page: William Pope specializes in photographing cattle in southeastern Oklahoma. His images have appeared in Popular Photography.



"Melvin Tolson's extraordinary life and literary accomplishments are a fitting testament to one of the central themes of his poetry: the dignity of the individual," says **David Draper Clark**. His article on Tolson (page 38) is an expanded version of his presentation of the Ralph Ellison Award honoring Tolson in 1997 at the Oklahoma Book Awards ceremony. A regular contributor to *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Clark is associate editor of *World Literature Today*—an international quarterly of the University of Oklahoma, which sponsors the Neustadt International Prize for Literature. He is an Oklahoma City native.

Contributing editor **Gordon Grice** often writes about misunderstood animals, and in his article "Sundown at the Selman Bat Cave" (page 44), he demystifies the Mexican free-tailed bat. "I used to watch bats looping around the lights at Lake Carl Blackwell [near Stillwater]," Grice, an OSU grad, recalls. "Researching this story taught me there's more to the world of bats than I ever imagined." When not chasing down tarantulas near his home in Guymon, Grice can be found with his wife, Tracy, and their two children. A recent contributor to *Granta*, he is currently on assignment for *The New Yorker* and *Esquire* magazines.



DAVID FITZGERALD

STEVE ANDERSON



Ponca City native **Joyce Carol Thomas** drew upon her great-grandmother's experiences as a pioneer woman for her latest book of children's poetry, *I Have Heard of a Land* (HarperCollins). "[The book] was inspired by my family's westward journey to Oklahoma," says Thomas, whose poetry is excerpted on page 70. "I wondered how they unearthed the courage to strike out for parts unknown." The book is illustrated by Tulsa native Floyd Cooper. Named Poet Laureate for Life by the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers, Thomas received the National Book Award in 1983 for her first young adult novel, *Marked by Fire*. She lives in Berkeley, California.

OKLAHOMA TODAY

Official Magazine of the State of Oklahoma

FRANK KEATING, Governor



JOAN HENDERSON
Publisher

LOUISA McCUNE
Editor in Chief

STEVEN WALKER, WALKER CREATIVE, INC.
Art Director

AIMÉE J. DOWNS, Associate Editor
KELLY CROW, Editorial Assistant
PRISCILLA MOHNKERN, Intern

Contributing Editors

BURKHARD BILGER, SHEILAH BRIGHT,
STEFFIE CORCORAN, JOEL EVERETT,
DAVID G. FITZGERALD, GORDON GRICE,
GEORGE LANG, TOM LUKER,
MAURA McDERMOTT, J. D. MERRYWEATHER,
BARBARA PALMER, W.K. STRATTON,
MICHAEL WALLIS, AND NANCY WOODARD

MELANIE MAYBERRY, General Manager

BRIAN C. BROWN, Advertising Director
ROGER JOHNSON, Account Executive
GINA STANLEY, Account Executive
COLLEEN MCINTYRE, Production Manager
TRINA COUCH, Intern

LISA BRECKENRIDGE, Accountant
BECKY ISAAC, Office Manager
PAM FOX, Contributing Staff
PAM POSTON, Contributing Staff

Tourism and Recreation
JANE JAYROE, Executive Director

Tourism and Recreation Commission
LT. GOV. MARY FALLIN, Chair
STAN CLARK
MEREDITH FRAILEY
JONATHAN D. HELMERICH
JOE MARTIN
JANIS RICKS
KENNETH R. SCHRUPP
JOHN WEST
ROBERT E. YOUNG

Oklahoma City Advertising Sales Office, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, (405) 521-2496 or (800) 777-1793. *Oklahoma Today* (ISSN 0030-1892) is published seven times a year: in January, February, March, May, July, September, and November by the State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, 15 N. Robinson, Suite 100, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73102/73152, (405) 521-2496 or (800) 777-1793. Subscription prices: \$16.95 per year in U.S., \$26.95 per year outside U.S. U.S. copyright © 1999 by *Oklahoma Today*. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. *Oklahoma Today* is not responsible for the care and/or return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork, photography, books, or any other material submitted for possible publication. Never send original photography, manuscripts, or artwork. In no event shall submission of such unsolicited material subject *Oklahoma Today* to any claim for holding fees or other similar charges. Payment is upon publication. Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK, and additional entry offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Oklahoma Today* Circulation, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152. SUBSCRIBER: Attach new address to old label. Allow four to six weeks advance notice. Visit *Oklahoma Today* on the Internet at www.oklahomatoday.com.





PAINTING COPYRIGHT 1998 BY TOM PHILLIPS

the Chickasaw Nation



Bill Anoatubby
Governor of Chickasaw Nation

Join the people of the Chickasaw Nation. A time for gathering and fellowship. A place for celebration and remembrance.



CHICKASAW NATION
TOURISM DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 1620
PURCELL, OK 73080
(800) 593-3356
[HTTP://WWW.CHICKASAW.COM](http://www.chickasaw.com)



1999 CHICKASAW FESTIVAL &
ANNUAL MEETING
P.O. BOX 363
TISHOMINGO, OK 73460
(580) 371-2040
SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 3



Keepsake® Candles
Oklahoma's Premiere
Candle Company
Since 1969



Mon-Fri 9:00-5:30
 Sat 10:00-5:00 • Sun 1:00-5:00
 Two Miles West Of Bartlesville On US Hwy 60
 1-888-636-0351 • www.keepsakecandles.com



Inter-Tribal Designs

Come by for that unique Native American item. We carry Native American-made jewelry, including Oklahoma's largest selection of Concho Belts, Kachinas by Oklahoma's Johnny Burgess, and one-of-a-kind Christmas ornaments. Share the season with a gift of Native American culture.



1501-03 N. Portland
 Oklahoma City, OK 73107
 (405) 943-7935 800-943-7935

FROM THE EDITOR



Grilled Cheese, Please

ON A RECENT TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO, I PICKED UP A COPY OF *USA TODAY* while waiting around in the Denver airport. The millenium-conscious front-page story, "Vanishing America," lamented the demise of twentieth-century American breeds, once ever-present people and places now mere symbols of a simpler time. The hitchhiker, the typewriter repairman, the World War II vet. Also on their list of gone but not forgotten: drive-in theaters and soda fountains.

Meanwhile back in Oklahoma, I had one writer on assignment covering the drive-in movie theater culture (page 34) and another writing about a drugstore lunch counter in Anadarko (page 56). I begged to differ with the *USA Today* analysis. Agreed, Oklahoma does have far fewer drive-ins than it once had (108 in 1965 and ten today), and just the other day I sadly heard of a popular pharmacy lunch counter which unplugged its grill for good. But stubborn or not, I'm still a believer. Maybe our fascination with things like Route 66 shows that our state prefers to straddle its past with the future, that we like the concept of Silicon Prairie but not without *Little House on the Prairie*.

My own childhood was defined by the lunch counter at Enid's Phillips Drug. Two of my five sets of stitches—one from stepping on glass barefoot and the other from hurdling a barbed wire fence but landing palm-first on a piece of glass—occurred on trips to Phillips Drug, still a lunchtime hot spot. With friends, I trekked through neighbors' back yards and the forested Bird Sanctuary for cherry limeades, bags of candy, and the latest edition of *Tiger Beat*. (My oldest sister sought pictures of David Cassidy; my middle sister, pictures of Scott Baio; I, Shaun Cassidy and the Bee Gees.) For my mother—as the pharmacist recalls each time I see him—Phillips Drug saved the McCune's first Christmas in Enid; she did all her Christmas shopping there on Christmas Eve the year my parents moved from Oklahoma City to Enid. That was 1962. And for my father, it meant a negligible bill at the end of every month. Though I'm ashamed to admit it, I'll occasionally charge a cherry limeade and some Maybelline mascara to my dad. I think he secretly likes getting those bills.

Some things don't change.

And some do. Our beloved senior editor Nancy Woodard, who wrote and edited for *Oklahoma Today* for nearly five years, resigned a few issues ago to devote herself to new motherhood. Though still a contributing editor, we miss her sensible and stylish presence. Our workhorse writer and editorial assistant Kelly Crow, a twenty-two-year-old editorial wunderkind, leaves us for the ivory tower of Columbia University's journalism graduate program. Her precision wit and reliable writing will be hard to do without (but New York should be better for it).

The magazine, too, is undergoing some changes. Aiming to bring more relevant information to you in a snappier format, we've increased the number of stories in *Across the Range* but made them more bite-sized. In *Calendar*, we've added a poem to highlight the state's talented pool of poets. And our new department, *Weekends*, offers an alternative to the usual weekend away. As always, I look forward to your feedback on what we're doing at *Oklahoma Today*.

Laura McCune

mccune@oklahomatoday.com



With Nancy and her daughter, Paris

Special Doctors. Special Care.

When is a Baby's Care Most Important?



When it's your baby.

It's only natural—the care that matters most to you is the care which most affects the health of your newborn. To become



healthy and strong, premature or low birth-weight infants require the highly-specialized, highly-personalized care they receive in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital of Oklahoma.

At Children's Hospital, your infant receives the finest care from some of the nation's finest neonatologists. After all, outstanding neonatal intensive care is most important when it's your baby's care. That's why your baby deserves the *special doctors* and *special care* found at Children's Hospital of Oklahoma.

To find your one-of-a-kind Children's physician, call the **Physician Finder** at **271-5000**.

Children's Hospital

940 N.E. 13th, Oklahoma City, OK 73104, 405-271-5437

 **University Health Partners**



GOING GRAY

I read with interest your Music Issue, and I was especially interested in the section concerning Otto Gray's contribution to the early days of country music.

My grandmother, Nettie Powell-Hall, was Florence Powell-Gray's sister. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, I spent several summers with Grandmother Hall in her Stillwater home. On occasion we would load up the whole family and head for Uncle Otto's farm to spend the day. I never heard Aunt Florence referred to as Mommie (as the story reads), but I suspect that this was a stage name rather than one used by the family.

I remember Uncle Otto as a tall, rugged-looking man, just as one would expect a cowboy to look. He had infinite patience as my brother and I—two rather rambunctious small boys—followed him everywhere asking endless questions about the farm. He let us milk the cows, turn the crank of the cream separator, and feed his horses sugar cubes and carrots. At this time we had no idea of their musical background or that

we were in the presence of legends. They were just Uncle Otto and Aunt Florence, nice people and fun to visit.

Thanks for reviving fond memories of long-ago summers, and keep up the splendid work in your magazine.

Larry Gentry
Little Elm, Texas

ON THE OTHER HAND

Overall, the "Discography" by Greg Johnson and George Lang was well done. But in Lang's review of Bob Wills, his comment that Wills is the "best" fiddle player in country music history is absurd. Wills was at best a mediocre fiddler whose strongest suit was "Texas fiddle music," or hoedowns, and waltzes. De-

A NOTEWORTHY ISSUE

Who knew music could be such a provocateur? Despite exhaustive research on the Music Issue (July-August), we knew we might overlook some of the state's extraordinary talent. But we didn't expect letter after letter pointing out our omissions. Readers especially missed early pop singer Kay Starr, whose biggest hit was "Wheel of Fortune." Other absentees included former Miss Oklahoma and orange juice spokesperson Anita Bryant, legendary sideman Jesse Ed Davis (who's played with Eric Clapton, Willie Nelson, and John Lennon), and guitar great Leo Kottke (who went to Muskogee High School). While it's good to know you're reading the issues cover to cover, we certainly regret the oversights.

finite biographies of Wills attest to the fact that he could not keep up with the likes of Joe Holly, Johnny Gimble, or Oklahoma's own Curly Lewis. And anyone who ever heard the famous home recording of Wills's solo effort on "San Antonio Rose" can understand why band members knew of, and covered, Wills's limitations on the fiddle.

As to being an "innovator," Wills owes his musical reputation to composer Tommy Duncan and Oklahoma's Eldon Shamblin, who, after 1937, arranged essentially all of the great songs and tunes produced by Tommy Duncan, Eldon Shamblin, and others in the band.

Bob Wills was charismatic, could read and play to a crowd, and could get the most out of his musicians, but "the best fiddle player in country music history" he was not. The Wills legend—and myth—do not need untrue or exaggerated words to secure his place in history.

Donald G. Mashburn
Oklahoma City

George Lang responds: *Precision does not always equal greatness—great music comes from the soul, and Wills's soul was in his playing. In my view, he might not have been able to ace out the devil in a Charlie Daniels-style fiddling duel, but his playing could have charmed him into conceding defeat.*

LONG OVERDUE

It was a pleasure to catch a glimpse of the Music Issue cover that included Woody Guthrie. The accompanying lines about him by Dr. Guy Logsdon were excellent.

In April 1977, in association with the

March of Dimes, an event honoring Woody Guthrie was held at the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman. Mary Jo Edgmon, Woody Guthrie's sister, attended. The crowd, however, was small.

Time has a way of bringing regrets. In this case, though, time has brought a promise of hope with the events in Okemah. In remembering the music of Woody Guthrie and offering a better understanding of Huntington's disease, you shared the space for an Oklahoman who still makes us think and smile with his songs. Thank you.

Mary Ann King
Noble

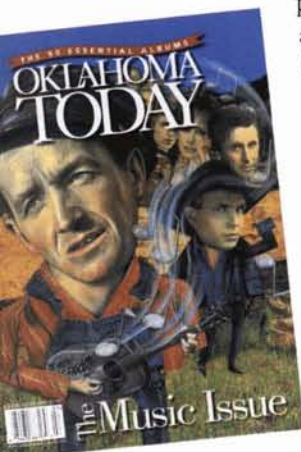
SOUR GRAPES

Is Oklahoma so hard up for heroes that it has to create one out of a transplanted socialist/Communist like Woody Guthrie? This *Grapes of Wrath* deserter left Oklahoma and moved to Texas, California, and then New York. Call him a Texan or a Yankee, but please, not an Oklahoman. If I were Garth, Reba, or Vince, I would be ashamed to be pictured on the same magazine cover with Mr. Guthrie.

James C. Richard
Oklahoma City

MEMORY LANE

Congratulations on the Music Issue! I have had the great pleasure of meeting most of these musicians and attending their performances. I have been to every kind of musical festival and performance in Oklahoma, seen Vince Gill at bluegrass festivals when he was just a kid, and visited Woody Guthrie's home



in Okemah while it was still standing back in the Seventies. I even played tenor banjo in a Dixieland band! So thanks, this issue brought back lots of nice memories.

Ellen Jonsson
Oklahoma City

NATIVE QUEEN

The article on Wanda Jackson in the Music Issue was right on the money, and kudos to her are well deserved and long overdue—and unlike Garth and Reba, she didn't leave Oklahoma the first chance she got.

Jim Van Horn
Clinton, Arkansas

LET THERE BE GOSPEL

After browsing through the Music Issue, I have to wonder why Oklahoma's gospel music heritage was completely ignored. Oklahoma musicians have been trendsetters in every field of music, yet gospel music, whether traditional South-

ern gospel, Christian rock or rap, did not make one single appearance in this issue.

Major Christian rock groups such as Point of Grace and 4HIM feature native Oklahomans. What about that Southern gospel stylist from Chockie? (Hint: Her sister made the edition.) The gospel influence from Oklahoma is almost as strong as that in country. Is prejudice at work here, or simply ignorance?

Annette Harness
Beaver

Hopefully neither. Though admittedly meager in scope, Christian and gospel coverage in the Music Issue does exist: on page 18, we wrote about the Seminole Gospel Sing held each August, and later in the issue, we featured 1950s pop icons Wanda Jackson and Patti Page, now both successful gospel singers.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The most complete and accurate run-down of our great state's music involve-

Corrections: Although we believe Woody Guthrie needs no introduction, it was in fact a production error that eliminated both the title of the article—"Woody Guthrie: The Legacy of America's Singular Troubadour"—and the byline. The article was written by Guy Logsdon, a Guthrie scholar based in Tulsa. In the Discography on page 66 the Gap Band is reported to be from the Tulsa neighborhood of Greenwood, Apache, and Pine—Apache should be Archer. Also, the photograph of Patti Page on page 41 should be credited to the *Oklahoman*.

ment, past and present. Keep up the good work.

John Whitehead
Drumright

Oklahoma Today welcomes the views of readers. Letters are subject to editing and must include name, address, and a daytime phone number. Send letters to: *Oklahoma Today*, Attn. Editor, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152 or fax to (405) 522-4588. Address electronic mail to letters@oklahomatoday.com.

MAINSITE

CONTEMPORARY ART

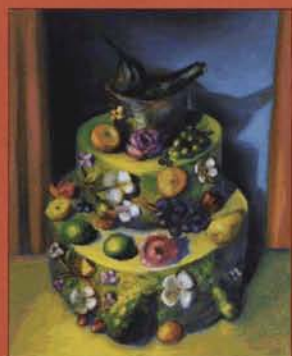
INAUGURAL EXHIBITIONS



La Rosa, Hand-painted Gelatin Silver Print, 40 x 40 inches

Luis González Palma

RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS
September 10 — October 16, 1999



The New Nest, Oil Stick/Canvas, 30 x 24 inches

Introducing
Linda Lou Warren

FROZEN MOMENTS
September 10 — October 16, 1999

FINE ART FOR THE ESTABLISHED AND BEGINNING COLLECTOR



By Kelly Crow

LIGHT IDEAS

Local Lamp Makers Switch To 3-D Art



WATCH YOUR STEP

Long before *A Bug's Life* fostered America's insect appeal, there was Janet the Bug (not pictured, \$247), which Randy Marks says has always been a popular design. Sam the Bumblebee (\$292), above, and Dottie the Ladybug (\$247), below, joined the line-up this year.



CUP O' JOE

Joe the Coffee Cup (\$225) is the brainchild of head metalworker Jason Wortham; the design was later adapted to a four-foot-tall version for a high-end Ohio grocery store.

FIN-TASTIC

Danny Theisen went retro when he created Justine the Car (\$315) because fins give the lamp more "personality." (Checked taxi versions for \$375 are a hit in the Big Apple, he adds.)



DAVID G. FITZGERALD & ASSOCIATES



LIGHT DRIVING

Marks says honoring the Mother Road was actually the idea of his physicist father, Whit. "He'd suggest a lot of lamps according to the laws of physics, but when he said Route 66, I said, 'You've got something there.'" \$262.



FUNKY COUPLE

Alfred (\$315) and Nora (\$315) are proof that lamp ideas spring from anywhere. Marks says, "I used to dye the paper in my bathroom, and a lot of dyeing is standing there waiting for the color to take. Suddenly, these splashes on the wall jumped out at me, and I saw them there."



BEST PAL TO MAN AND SOFA

After *New York* magazine named Spike (\$236) one of its "Best Bets for the Holiday Season" in 1996, Marks and Theisen decided a welded steel rod Spike end table (\$326) with two glass shelves would be a natural extension for the company. The table debuted this spring.



ROLL OVER

In the spirit of letting "sleeping" dogs lie, pet accessory stores often order this number—minus the tire marks. Roadkill, \$303.



SCREEN KING

Along with Ikie the Dog (not pictured, \$202), folks can tune in for a glimpse of IVTV (\$225) on CBS's *The King of Queens*. NBC also bought lamps to light up *Veronica's Closet* and *Jesse*.

DAVID G. FITZGERALD & ASSOCIATES



From left, Antonia Saeger, Jason Wortham, Danny Theisen, and Phil Marrs

MEET THE MAKERS

Independent Vision

Never was a twenty-five-watt light bulb more inconsequential. The faint glow barely warms the saturated papers of Independent Vision's quirky lamps, but illumination is a relative term.

"You see how people light up around real animals? They do the same thing around our 3-D cartoons," says Randy Marks, the Edmond native who started the Oklahoma City company in 1992. Co-owner Danny Theisen from Oklahoma City joined two years later, and the two have since seen their lighted sculptures grace the pages of *Vogue* and *InStyle* magazines and the sets of *Waiting to Exhale* and *Party of Five*.

Marks originally intended to market a line of stacked glass lamps. When his more lampshade-than-lamp creations outsold glass five to one at a Dallas furniture show, though, he realized his business had found its niche.

Today, his staff of seven makes 5,000 lamps a year using several dozen varieties of imported papers which they hand-paint before stretching over metal frames. Theisen also oversees commissioned works for the likes of Neiman Marcus and Disney.

From martinis to spaceships, several hundred designs have seen the production line over the years, though only twenty-six make up the current catalogue. Ironically, their two top sellers are originals—Estrellita the Star and Luna the Large Moon.

"We're really just left to the masses to tell us which ones are winners," Theisen says, "but we usually try to create something that will make us laugh."

—Kelly Crow

Independent Vision, 1717 Linwood Boulevard in Oklahoma City, accepts orders over the Internet at www.independentvision.com or by calling (405) 236-1998. State stores carrying the lamps (ranging \$125-\$375) include Oklahoma City's Route 66 at 50 Penn Place, (405) 848-6166, and Tulsa's Urban Furnishings, 3638 South Peoria Avenue, (918) 747-0510.



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVEN WALKER

SPORTING CHANCE

Weekend Woos Women Outdoors

Annie Oakley would be proud.

Nearly a hundred women will flock to a weekend workshop near Bartlesville in September with the express purpose of "Becoming an Outdoors Woman." Instructors like champion fly-fisherman Sally Ann Brown will teach greenhorns the basics—riflery, archery, canoeing, sailing, birding, and backpacking—along with more delicate techniques like making bait, gutting and dressing fish, navigating through woods using only a compass, and cooking a double-top cheesecake brownie with a Dutch oven and some charcoal.

The OSU-sponsored program, now in its sixth year, will also help women ages eighteen and over learn how to pack a mule, journal their wilderness experiences, and complete their hunter safety education course.

But certified city slickers can take heart. "We get everyone from the complete novice who thinks roughing it is a hotel without an ice machine to active folks who just want to learn a new skill," says instructor Luann Waters. "It ends up being a nice variety of people."

—Kelly Crow

The workshop is September 24-26 at Camp Wah-shah-she, located southwest of Bartlesville on U.S. Highway 60. Cost: \$150-\$175 (depending on whether you want a bunk bed at the lodge or a tent), includes meals at the dining hall and use of all equipment. Bring bedding, though. (405) 744-5499.

Ding! Ding!

DOWNTOWNERS AND tourists in Oklahoma City won't have to hoof it from the Memorial site to Bricktown Ballpark anymore. Thanks to MAPS, *Oklahoma Spirit* trolleys cart patrons around the downtown area in a throwback to the Twenties. For just twenty-five cents a ride, riders can sit in the comfort of air conditioning but enjoy a bit of nostalgia as well.

—Louisa McCune



Downtown stops are every ten minutes on weekdays and every twenty minutes on weekends. The trolley also runs from downtown to the Meridian corridor with stops at Stockyards City. Call for hours (405)235-RIDE.

War & Peace

For more than forty years, *New York Times* photographer and Israeli citizen Micha Bar-Am viewed life through the lens of his camera. Now, the events of his career and scenes from his everyday life are on display in "Micha Bar-Am: An Israeli Photobiography," an exhaustive exhibit of 123 black-and-white photographs at the City Arts Center beginning in October. "My style is like an imprint," Bar-Am says. "I'm interested in human beings, but I'm definitely interested in the abstract as well. In my photos, the humans may not be seen, but they are always there."

—Aimée J. Downs

The exhibit runs October 14 - November 20 in the Eleanor Kirkpatrick Gallery of the City Arts Center, 3000 General Pershing Boulevard in Oklahoma City. A gallery talk with Bar-Am begins at 5:30 p.m. on opening night. Hours: 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Free. (405) 951-0000.

Ropin', Ridin', and Rehabilitation

MOST FOLKS DON'T USUALLY have the opportunity to visit Big Mac. The Oklahoma State Penitentiary, in McAlester, nonetheless packs the visitors in each Labor Day weekend with its Oklahoma Prison Rodeo, one of the few remaining such rodeos in the country. (While Louisiana's Angola Prison is legendary, Big Mac's is the only one "behind prison walls.")

Now in its fifty-ninth year, the rodeo has become one of the hottest tickets in town. For inmates, it may be better than Christmas. Convict cowboys train and compete at thirteen satellite correctional centers around the state and are then transported to the maximum-security facility for the PRCA-sanctioned event. For two nights, 260 con-

testants—from car thieves to violent offenders, but all with "clear conduct"—vie for prize money and bragging rights.

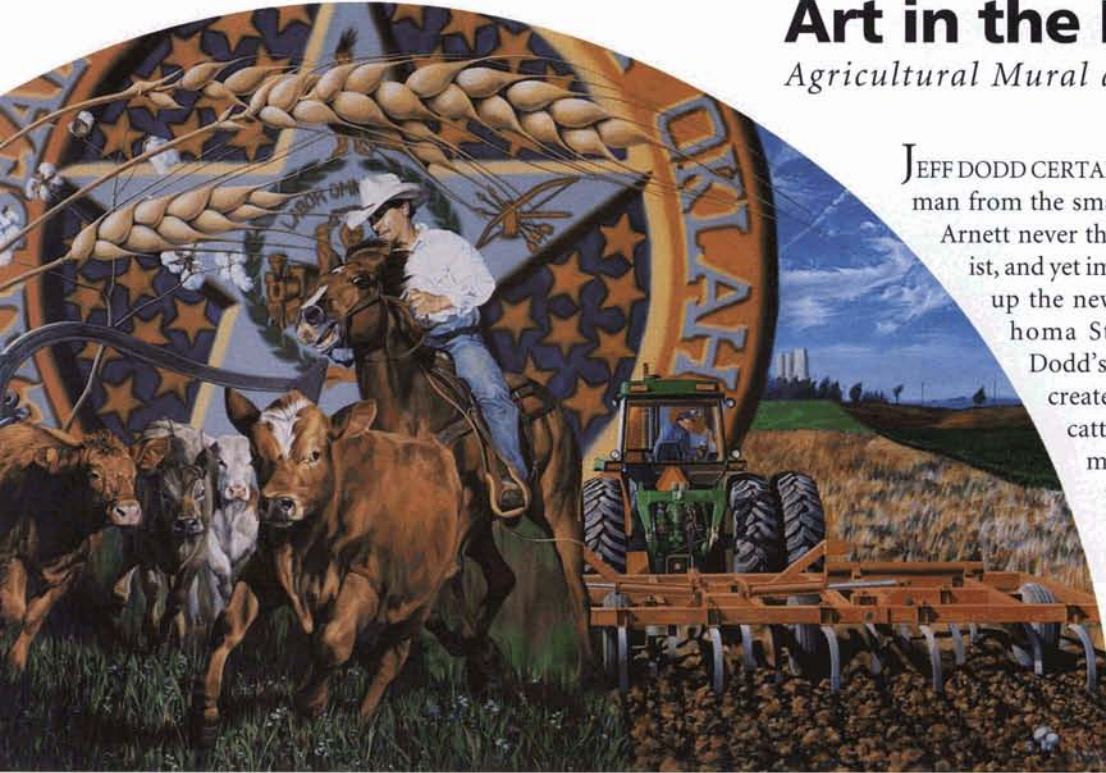
The most popular event is the most lucrative and the most dangerous. In "Money the Hard Way," a certificate worth a hundred dollars is attached between the steers of a wild bull. The inmate who successfully retrieves the certificate will see the money deposited into his prison account. "That's about six months' pay for the normal inmate," says Bill McMahan, rodeo chairman for more than a decade.

—Louisa McCune

The rodeo is at 8 p.m. September 3 and 4. Tickets range from \$6-\$15. (918) 423-2550.

Art in the Round

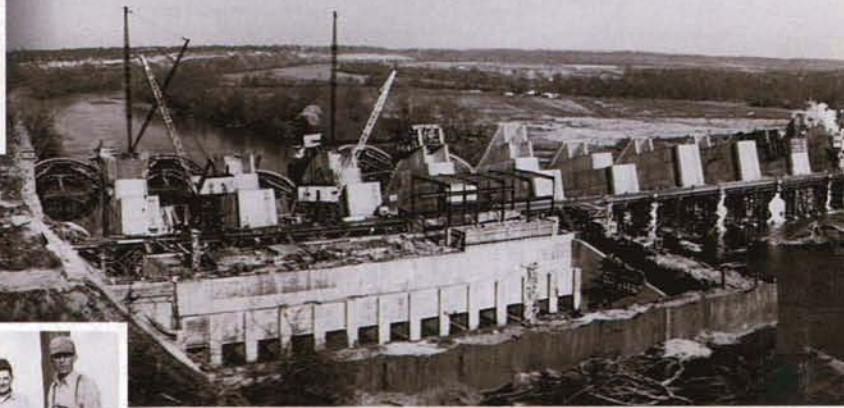
Agricultural Mural a Capitol Achievement



JEFF DODD CERTAINLY BELONGS TO THE LAND. THE man from the small northwest Oklahoma town of Arnett never thought he'd make much of an artist, and yet images from his rural boyhood make up the newest mural hanging in the Oklahoma State Capitol's Great Rotunda. Dodd's "We Belong to the Land" also recreates a near-epic scene of agriculture: cattle with blazing eyes and glistening muscles, a pioneer woman wiping the sweat from her brow, a tractor and plow breaking the ground.

Inspiring images to be sure, but Dodd says he simply drew from his own experiences to chronicle the role of agriculture in Oklahoma's history. "You just paint something you like to

The Birth of a Dam





paint. If it's something you've been around all your life, it's pretty easy," the thirty-seven year old says. "But agricul-

ture is so diversified—each person is going to relate to certain things."

Having a feel for the home country is one thing; illustrating an industry on a canvas twenty-two feet long is quite another. And Dodd's path to the capitol wasn't a straight line. After earning a commercial art degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, he spent three years in the family business—a chain of convenience stores across northwest Oklahoma. After being rejected for the art graduate program at Wichita State University, he spent the next three years on a personal odyssey of sorts, perfecting his craft in creative

hubs like New York and New Mexico.

After eventually making it into Wichita State's graduate program, a friend recommended him to the Oklahoma Arts Council, who were then planning an oil-themed mural for the capitol rotunda. The council invited Dodd and four other Oklahoma artists to make proposals; one visit to the capitol was all the motivation he needed. Dodd's proposal was chosen, and his "Oklahoma Black Gold"—depicting the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma—was dedicated in 1996.

To complete the twenty-two-by-eleven-foot agricultural mural, Dodd immersed himself in his Enid studio for nearly a year, poring over old family photographs. From these pictures he discovered a sense of the state's collective history as seen

through the eyes of an ordinary family: his sister-in-law is rendered as the pioneer woman, a college buddy rides as the cowboy on

horseback, his brother sits atop a tractor.

"That's all I paint. Perhaps the land belongs to Dodd people," he says. "You can say a lot with people. People are really expressive."

—Dawn Marks



Guided tours of the Oklahoma State Capitol, 2300 North Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City, are given at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, but the rotunda is open for self-guided tours 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Dodd's agriculture industry mural hangs over the entrance to the chamber of the House of Representatives, the oil mural over the entrance to the Senate. Free. (405) 521-3356.



History | Power Generation | Recreation | Public Power | Environment | Economic Development

OKLAHOMA'S PENSACOLA DAM

Like the first chapter of a classic novel, the birth of Oklahoma's oldest hydroelectric facility in 1940 was the beginning of the GRDA story—a story of grand lakes and endless recreational opportunities, reliable electricity and the power to change Oklahoma lives for the better.

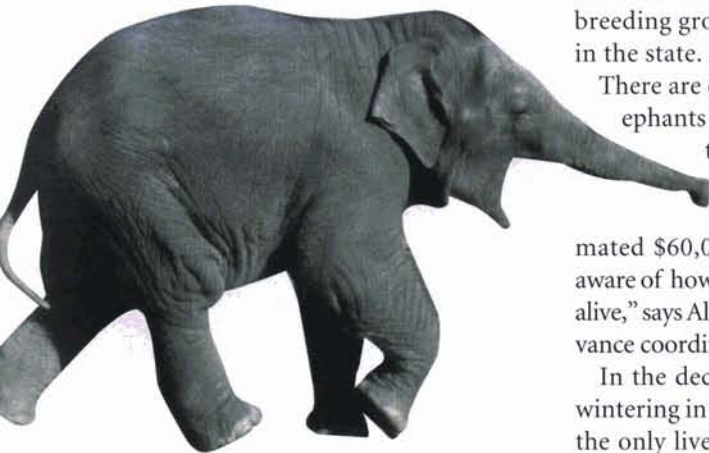
Literally, the GRDA story is about Oklahomans helping Oklahomans. And a story like that is always worth telling...

GRDA
www.grda.com

Grand River Dam Authority ♦ Oklahoma's electric utility.

Trunk Show *An Elephant Turns One*

WE CALL HER NINE-ZERO BECAUSE she's always going ninety miles an hour," says elephant superintendent Tim Frisco of Jennie, a rambunctious Asian elephant born last September at the winter camp of Carson & Barnes Five-Ring Circus in Hugo.



Like any youngster, Jennie is constantly in motion—all 720 pounds of her. Sometimes she runs around so fast her legs get out of sync, and down she goes. While the scene is straight out of *Dumbo*, those in town know there's a bit of a miracle behind Jennie's arrival, since she is the first elephant born at the breeding grounds the circus is forming in the state.

There are only about 40,000 Asian elephants in existence, and preserving the species is expensive and complicated. (Jennie's birth alone cost an estimated \$60,000.) "Very few people are aware of how hard it is to keep this species alive," says Alfrieda Wilkins, director of advance coordination at the Hugo camp.

In the decade since the circus began wintering in Oklahoma, Jennie has been the only live birth. A closer look at the

process reveals why: an elephant's reproductive cycle is twenty-two days, but the egg can only be fertilized on two of those days. Scientists run various tests like drawing blood once a week to determine optimum fertilization, and when an elephant becomes fertile, she is taken from her eight-month performance tour and sent to Texas and then Oklahoma.

But breeding elephants isn't entirely about science; all Carson & Barnes elephants are named after family members of founder D.R. Miller. Jennie was named for Miller's mother, Isa for his sister-in-law.

Jennie will celebrate her first birthday September 6. (Don't forget: peanuts make a great gift.)

—Priscilla Mohnkern

Circus headquarters are located at State Highway 93 and Kirk Road in Hugo. Elephant viewing is open to the public from mid-November through early March, but call prior to making the trip. Free. (580) 326-3173.

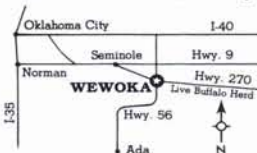
SEMINOLE NATION MUSEUM



- Museum Art Gallery
- Indian Arts & Crafts Center
- Authentic Seminole Dwelling
- Cultural Exhibits & Displays

Hours:

1-5 Daily, Tuesday - Sunday
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas
and the month of January



524 S. Wewoka
Wewoka, OK 74884
(405) 257-5580

EDMOND CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU



Route 66 Classic Open Car Show

...will be wheeling into Edmond with nearly 200 awesome classic cars and family fun for everyone.

Saturday, September 18th

On Route 66
2nd Street & UCO Campus
(405) 341-3554

"Sharing the Circle"

Professional artists come together in a hands-on festival celebrating **Art** for the young and the young at heart.

Saturday, October 9th & Sunday, October 10th

Hafer Park - 9th & Bryant
(405) 359-4630



A Festival for All Ages

Edmond Convention & Visitors Bureau

825 E. 2nd Street, Suite 100, Edmond, OK 73034
(405) 341-4344 • FAX (405) 340-5512

Visit our website at: www.visitedmondok.com

E-mail: cwwhite@visitedmondok.com



Lots of companies say they're green.

But talk is cheap. Here at OG&E, we let our actions speak for themselves. Like handing out over 20,000 seedlings at the Oklahoma State Fair. Teaming up with OKC Beautiful to clean up neighborhoods. Providing habitats for wildlife at our power plant locations.

If These Trees Could Talk ... Partnering with the Oklahoma

Forestry Service to promote the benefit of trees to the environment. And lots more.

Our actions prove that we're working with you to be good stewards of the natural resources around us, while providing reliable power with rates more than 20% *below* the national average. We call it Positive Energy.™ And though striking that balance is a demanding job, it's one we do *more* than just talk about.

OG&E®



Noel Grayson, Seminole demonstrator

Sugar-Free

A Celebration of Sorghum

IT'S PITCH-BLACK, SYRUPY, AND SWEETER THAN MOLASSES. Sorghum—the early pioneers' sweetener of choice—may have been eclipsed by sugars in years since, but don't tell that to the folks in Wewoka. Each October, more than 40,000 people stream into the southeastern Oklahoma town to buy some 3,000 jars of homemade sorghum.

Sorghum for the event is made by stripping and hand-feeding stalks into a 1908 mill powered by horses, then heating the juices in a series of shallow pans before serving. (Favorite foods soaked in sorghum include Indian fry bread, biscuits, and cake.)

Sweet teeth satiated, festival-goers may watch demonstrations of everything from flint knapping (carving flint into knives and bygone tools) and brain tanning (the nearly lost art of softening hides into buckskin using the brain tissue of animals) to Seminole Indian patchwork and flute making.

—Kelly Crow

Sorghum Day is 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on October 23 in downtown Wewoka. Free. (405) 257-5485.

With dozens of Best Westerns throughout Oklahoma, you have to admit we give you plenty of rooms to roam.

Wherever you travel in Oklahoma, you can be sure the landscape will welcome you with open plains, the Big Sky will be smiling down on you and there will be a Best Western conveniently located along the way. Which is good news, because no matter where you are in Oklahoma, you're never far from a good night's sleep. For more information, contact your travel professional, visit us on the web or just give us a call.

Stay at these Best Westerns in Oklahoma.

Ada	Checotah	Elk City	McAlester	Owasso (Tulsa Area)	Shawnee
Altus	Chickasha	Enid	Miami	Perry	Stillwater
Ardmore	Claremore	Glenpool (Tulsa Area)	Muskogee	Poteau	Stroud
Atoka	Clinton	Grove	Oklahoma City (3)	Roland	Tulsa (3)
Bartlesville	Durant	Guthrie	Oklahoma City Area (Moore)	Sallisaw	Weatherford
Broken Arrow	El Reno	Guymon	Okmulgee	Sand Springs (Tulsa Area)	

1.800.338.8163
www.bestwestern.com



Across the street from ordinary.®

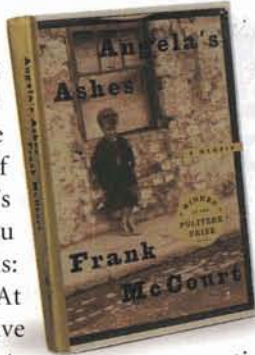
OF PULITZER AND PRESLEY

GATHERING CELEBRATES ALL THINGS LITERARY

FEW EXPECT TO HEAR Elvis Presley's name at a literary conference. At the fifth annual Celebration of Books in Tulsa, though, that's exactly what you'll hear if you attend the workshop, "Elvis: The Myth in Literature." At the very least, you won't have to endure a lecture on "How to Be a Stuffy Writer."

Pulitzer Prize winners like Frank McCourt, Beth Henley, and N. Scott Momaday and big-name favorites like Billie Letts and Earl Hamner will make appearances, as will dozens of other writers—all with stories about writing and getting published.

Writers encourage other writers, even famous ones. According to event founder Teresa Miller, Letts was mentally road-blocked by the book she was writing last year. "At the Celebration, Billie found the



inspiration to complete *The Honk and Holler Opening Soon*," Miller says. (This year, Letts is working on the screenplay for *Honk and Holler*, her second book sold to Hollywood.) Those who attend the Celebration of Books can expect more than just publishing tips: they'll be motivated to write more and better. And blue suede shoes aren't required.

—Janice L. Airhart

The Celebration of Books begins at 7 p.m. October 1 at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, 110 East Second Street, with the induction of Durant native Billie Letts into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame. Saturday workshops and other activities are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the campus of OSU-Tulsa, 700 North Greenwood.

Award presentations to Frank McCourt and Beth Henley are at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Brady Theater, 105 West Brady. (918) 594-8215 or poetsandwriters.okstate.edu.

Lunch Recital

It's noon on a Tuesday in downtown Tulsa as a steady stream of people trickles in to church. Prompted more by hunger and an ear for music than piety, these urban workers have found a lyrical oasis in the concrete jungle, courtesy Trinity Episcopal Church's Tuesdays at Trinity program.

For the past two years, the church has courted the downtown lunch crowd by offering home-style meals and concert-worthy music—all wrapped up in a half-hour. (Food is served downstairs in the Great Hall, which seats 200.) Much of the October-to-May season rests on the church's 1960 Möller organ (with four keyboards lending eighty-two different instrument sounds), but this year also promises performances by the Holland Hall Singers, the Coventry Chorale, and sneak previews of Tulsa Opera's *Carmen*, *Manot*, and *Tosca*.

If a concert a week seems tough to fill, Trinity's choir director Steven Tappe says, "There are enough great artists and musicians in this city to perform every day, much less every week."

—Kelly Crow



Tuesdays at Trinity begins its third season at 12:05 p.m. October 5 with Walter Stout and follows October 12 with a Tulsa Opera preview of Carmen at 501 South Cincinnati Avenue in Tulsa. Organist Ron Pearson plays on October 19. Lunch, ranging in price from \$2.75 to \$4, is served at 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the Tuesday music program ends at 12:35 p.m. Free. (918) 582-4128.

"When you want to serve the finest."

Make your meal an event to remember... serve Shafer's Honey Glazed Ham. Prepared daily, Shafer's Hams are fully cooked and ready to serve. Each ham is slowly smoked, spiral sliced, and glazed with a delicate blend of honey and spices. Shafer's Hams make any meal a special occasion.



Shafer's Honey Glazed Ham Co., Inc.

Oklahoma City Locations:

9300 N. May • (405) 751-9040

SW 74th & Penn • (405) 685-3081

Rockwell & NW Expressway • (405) 728-3358

Oklahoma Indian Art Gallery

PRESENTS
A GROUP SHOW FEATURING

ROBERT ANNESLEY

LEE BOCOCK

BILL GLASS

BENJAMIN HARJO, JR

MERLIN LITTLE THUNDER

VIRGINIA STROUD

ROBERT TAYLOR

GARY YAZZIE

SEPTEMBER 12 THROUGH 30

**ARTISTS RECEPTION
SUNDAY, SEPT. 12, 2-6PM**

VINTAGE MISSION FURNITURE
BASKETS • MASKS
NAVAJO RUGS • PUEBLO POTTERY

2335 SW 44TH STREET
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73119
(405) 685-6162 (800) 585-6162

ACROSS THE RANGE



It's Greek to Me

Bring on the bouzouki and the baklava—Tulsa's Greek Holiday is back for its thirty-ninth year.

MORE THAN 600 MAN-HOURS ARE needed to set up Tulsa's second-largest ethnic festival. Re-creating a Greek village on the grounds of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and cooking up delicacies in Army-size proportions—2,000 gyros, 15,000 cheese pies, and 25,000 honey puffs, for starters—are reasons enough to bring in the cadre of volunteers.

During the four-day festival, a hundred gallons of olive oil will also be used to make more than 20,000 pastries. (It takes two days just to melt the butter for the 130

sheets of baklava and two more days to put the sheets into cups for serving.) Other Hellenic foods to try include *keftethes* (Greek meatballs), *spanakopita* (spinach pies), *pastichio* (similar to lasagna), Greek chicken *oreganato*, and large Greek salads.

When it's time to work off the calories, head out to the tent on the church lawn, where more than eighty dancers will teach traditional steps like the *hasapiko* and the Greek wine dance.

"If you can walk, you can do a Greek

dance," says Stella Austin, a member of Holy Trinity who has helped with the holiday since 1989. (Other attractions include a boutique, fine jewelry store, and a Greek market.)

—Priscilla Mohnkern

The festival will be September 23-26 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1222 South Guthrie in Tulsa. Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$2 after 4 p.m. each evening. Lunch specials are \$6, and dinner costs \$10. (918) 583-7832.

OKLAHOMA
NATIVE AMERICA

America In Its Native State

Woolaroc Museum
& Wildlife Park,
Bartlesville

FREE TRAVEL GUIDE • 1-800-652-6552 • WWW.TRAVELOK.COM

The OKT Profile: BOB STOOPS



OU's newly appointed head football coach talks about life in Oklahoma, his father's work ethic, and Cool Hand Luke. Fresh from the University of Florida, Bob Stoops, 39, prepares for his first season as the twenty-first coach in Sooner football history.

Q Who is your inspiration? **A** There are quite a few people out there who I look up to and admire, but I'm not sure if they inspire me. Some of them are coaches I've worked with, but mostly it's family.

Q Who were your childhood heroes? **A** My dad was always my hero. He was one of the greatest football coaches in the city of Youngstown and the state of Ohio, and I remember telling myself that I wanted to be just like him someday. Family and pride in his work were always important to him, and I'm trying to live by those same standards.

Q Favorite quote or motto? **A** "What we have here is a failure to communicate," from the movie *Cool Hand Luke*.

Q When you're not working, what are you doing? **A** With a three year old and twin boys who were born on June 16, my spare time is at home helping my wife take care of the kids. That's an important time for me.

Q Perfect weekend? **A** During the season, it would be a win every Saturday. When we're not playing, it's spending time with my family.

Q Whose opinion do you value most? **A** Those who are closest to me—family and some dear friends. What others think or say doesn't mean a thing to me.

Q Most interesting aspect of Oklahoma? **A** The weather. From the time we've been here, the weather has been totally different than what we thought. And just when we think we have it figured out, it changes again.

September 25-26, 1999

Festival



on Oklahoma's Beautiful
Grand Lake O' the Cherokees

Concert • Arts & Crafts Show • Audobon Pelican Viewing Tours
Entertainment • Airplane Ride Events • Art Show • Parade
4-State Marching Band Competition • 50s Street Dance

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:

Grove
General Hospital
INTEGRIS Health

GIT n'GO

Bear's Den
Resort

Coca-Cola

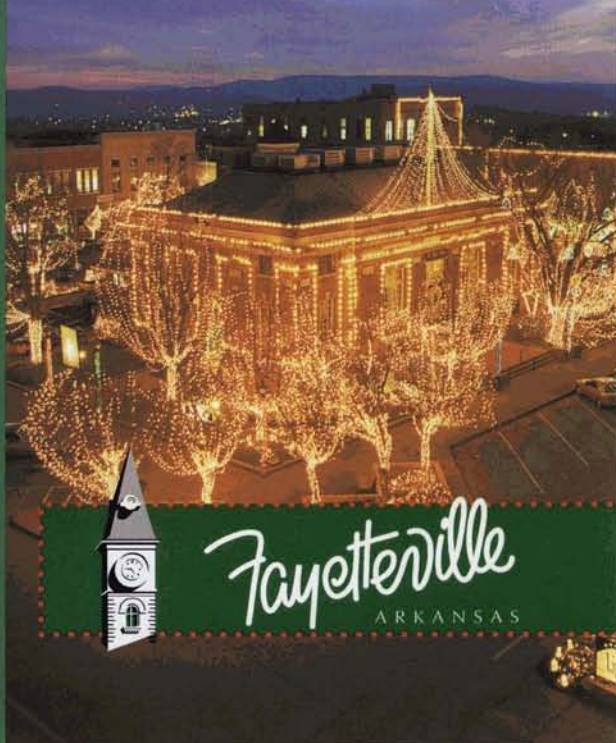
Simmons

For More Information and a Free Visitor
Guide to Grand Lake call 918-786-2289

OKLAHOMA
NATIVE AMERICASM

Head for the hills.

Make this holiday season extra-special — visit the Lights of the Ozarks Festival in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The fun begins November 24, with millions of lights, great entertainment, delicious food and fantastic shopping. On the American Bus Association's list of top 100 events in North America!



Fayetteville
ARKANSAS

1•800•766•4626
www.fayettevilleAR.com



Location! Location! Location!

Heritage Hills, the Grande Dame of Home Tours

ON APRIL 22, 1889, THE FIRST EAGER settler staked a claim on a sun-warmed, wildflower-dotted patch of grass not much more than a stone's throw from what is now downtown Oklahoma City.

In a few short years—thanks to big fortunes made fast—Heritage Hills metamorphosed from virgin land to the most prestigious collection of addresses in the city. (It was also named the city's first historic preservation district in 1969.) The neighborhood lured the state's richest citizens with its lush, rolling hills and prox-

imity to downtown commerce.

Now in its thirty-third year, the Heritage Hills Historic Homes Tour (the state's oldest such tour) spotlights six of the neighborhood's most beautiful homes, two historic mansions, and St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

The tour is much more than pretty houses, though. In addition to the architectural sites, the tour weekend also boasts a gala twilight premiere, an antiques show, and a tearoom gathering at nearby Cheever's Café. Homes in the

area run the gamut, size-wise, from early century bungalows and cottages to opulent mansions. Architectural styles are just as various, including everything from Italianate to Tudor to what tour co-chair Jane Edmonds refers to as "grand Oklahoma brick."

A nice counterpoint to the neighborhood's historic feel is its diversity. Made up of young marrieds, families, long-time residents, and representatives of all income levels, Heritage Hills' neighborhood association has been gung-ho from the get-go. This is no gated community of isolated residents. The sheer number of year-round activities gets folks outside and makes Heritage Hills a very, well, neighborly place to live.

—Steffie Corcoran

The tour is 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. October 16 and 1-5 p.m. October 17 in Oklahoma City's Heritage Hills neighborhood. The Overholser Mansion, 405 Northwest Fifteenth, will serve as "tour central." Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 the days of the tour. (405) 272-0247.



Hours: Tue - Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays, major holidays
and first two weeks after Labor Day

JASMINE MORAN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

See seven new exhibits and outdoor play area. Bring the children you love to the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum for great hands-on fun.

JASMINE MORAN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM • Highway 9 in Seminole • (405) 382-0950

Great Plains Antique Show & Sale

SEPTEMBER 17-19, 1999

Mid-America All-Indian Center • 650 North Seneca • Wichita, Kansas

GENERAL SHOW ADMISSION / \$7.00 PER PERSON

10AM - 6:00PM • Friday & Saturday / 11AM - 5:00PM • Sunday

For More Information, Call 316.942.3499

A Friends of the Wichita Art Museum Project to Benefit the Endowment Fund
web: www2.southwind.net/~antique/show

Global Oklahoma
a festival of cultures

ROSE STATE COLLEGE
Saturday
October 9
1999

featuring
ITALY

Celebrate Oklahoma's unique, multicultural identity and enjoy the many exhibits, entertainment, food, art, children's activities, school displays and a new, global Internet chat room at Global Oklahoma - a festival of cultures.

(405) 736-0313
www.rose.cc.ok.us/globok/

GILCREASE MUSEUM
presents...

Down from the
Shimmering Sky

Masks

of the Northwest Coast

August 21 - November 7, 1999

Tickets on Sale Now!

918.596.2788

\$5 adults

\$3 for groups of ten or more,
students with ID and senior citizens

FREE for children 12 and under and
Gilcrease Museum members

This exhibiton is
made possible by:

Sarkey's Foundation

The Mervin Boucaird Foundation

Lobeck-Taylor Foundation

Oklahoma Arts Council

1400 Gilcrease Museum Road, Tulsa, OK • 918.596.2700 • www.gilcrease.org



Top-Secret Talent

Ex-CIA Agent Spotted with Watercolors

P SST. HOT TIP FROM HEADQUARTERS: JERALD Peterson, a former operations officer with the Central Intelligence Agency, will uncover his rustic watercolors at the twenty-fifth annual Ponca City Fine Arts Festival in September. Sources say the Edmond native spent twenty-five years recruiting and handling spies before settling in Tahlequah four years ago to devote his retirement years to art. Examples dotting the desks of diplomats and adorning the homes of spies worldwide include Eastern Seaboard scenes, European street corners, and rural farmhouses. Handle situation with care, since the festival is the only Oklahoma art show (of twenty-three this year) in which Peterson is expected to surface.

—Kelly Crow

The festival is 9 a.m.-6 p.m. September 18 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. September 19 at 819 East Central in Ponca City. Free. (580) 767-0427. To inquire about Peterson's work, call (918) 458-9426.



**THE
TAILGATE-PARTYIN'
ORANGE WEARIN'**

**HOW'S-THE-COMPETITION-GONNA-
HEAR-YOU-YELLIN'-IF-YOU-DON'T-
BUY-YOUR-TICKETS?**

TOTAL FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE.

Call 1-877-ALL-4-OSU for tickets!

OSU The total football experience.
okstate.com

Three-handed?

Internships in editorial, advertising, circulation, and marketing are available at *Oklahoma Today* year-round. For more information, call (405) 521-2496 or (800) 777-1793.
www.oklahomatoday.com

**OKLAHOMA
TODAY**
THE MAGAZINE OF OKLAHOMA



**Great State.
Great Magazine.**

M U S K O G E E



Flying,
Racing,
Singing,
Playing
and
Rolling
on the
River



Muskogee Convention and Tourism
PO Box 2361
Muskogee, OK 74402
888-687-6137



River Rumba

September 25—River Rumba is a celebration of music, summer, and life along the Arkansas River! Enjoy the evening concert featuring the Ozark Mountain Devils and The Byrds with a fireworks finale! East of Muskogee on Hwy. 62. www.parks.muskogee.ok.us (918) 684-6802



Muskogee Speedway Octoberfest '99

Friday & Saturday October 1&2—Featuring HA VA-A-TAMPA late models. Fast 1/2-mile dirt track with racing each Friday, April-September. (918) 686-7223

The Castle

October 15—The Castle of Muskogee does Halloween with gusto—the Haunted Castle. Six events: haunted hay rides, haunted castle, walking trails, mazes, Halloweenland and Cinemaniacs, plus more. (800) 439-0658



The Five Civilized Tribes Museum

October 10-November 7—The Five Civilized Tribes Museum presents the Masters Art Show displaying fine art by Museum Master Artists of five tribes heritage. All works are for sale. (918) 683-1701

Airshow Oklahoma!

October 9&10—Gates open at 8:30 a.m. Show starts at noon each day at Muskogee Davis Field. North American Aerobatic Team • Otto the Helicopter • Guardians of Freedom • Family Entertainment 918-683-4581, ext. 269

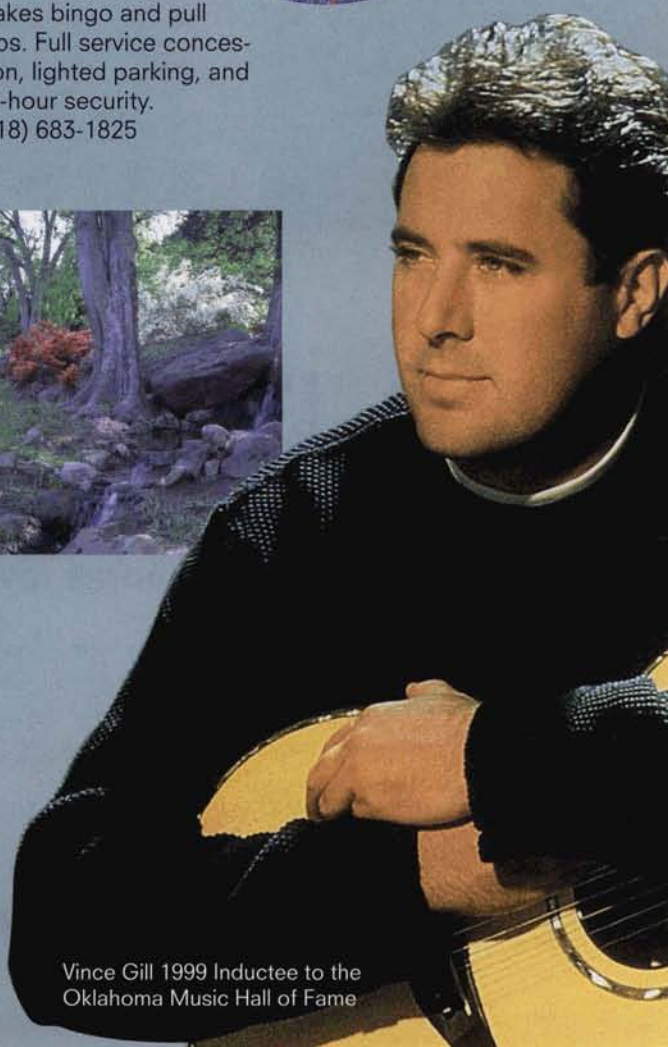
Creek Nation Muskogee Bingo

Open daily—High stakes bingo and pull tabs. Full service concession, lighted parking, and 24-hour security. (918) 683-1825



Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame

Thursday, October 14th—3rd Annual Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Concert and Induction Ceremonies, 8pm, Muskogee Civic Center. For information call 918-456-4711.



Vince Gill 1999 Inductee to the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame



The Will Rogers Memorial plaza

WEEKENDS

'A TOWN IN PHYSIQUE BUT A CITY AT HEART'

—WILL ROGERS

Claremore's favorite son was right—as usual.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS INSTALLMENT OF "WEEKENDS" USHERS IN A NEW DEPARTMENT AT OKLAHOMA TODAY. IN EACH ISSUE, WE'LL FEATURE A CITY, TOWN, OR COUNTY WE THINK OFFERS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR THE WEEKEND TRAVELER.

THERE ARE REASONS SO MANY PEOPLE ARE MOVING TO Claremore. Stroll through its quaint downtown, and you'll immediately sense the small-town atmosphere of a bygone era. Walk into any of the turn-of-the-century buildings, and you'll be greeted by experts hawking antiques and collectibles (giv-

ing the town a mercantile moniker, "Den of Antiquity"). An easy, scenic thirty-minute commute to the business center of Tulsa, it's easy to understand the recent census bureau statistics—Claremore is the fastest growing city in Oklahoma, up 51 percent from 1990.

More than 150 years before statehood, Claremore was a hill-top Indian village overlooking the lush Verdigris River Valley. As settlers moved in, they began calling the village Clermont, French for "clear mountain." In 1882, when Clermont was designated a town, a postal clerk accidentally misspelled the name

on a government file, and "Claremore" became the former Indian village's official name.

When "radium water," or hot springs, were discovered as farmer George Eaton drilled for oil in 1903, citizens didn't complain. Instead, savvy businessmen opened bathhouses so those afflicted with arthritis and rheumatism could soak their troubles away in the "miracle" waters. Even Will Rogers joked that the water would "cure you of everything but being a Democrat." The downtown Hotel Will Rogers, dedicated February 7, 1930, was one place to "take the cure." Three of the mineral tubs are still preserved on the sixth floor, but baths are no longer available—the hotel has been renovated into a senior retirement center. Another early Claremore hot spot was Radium Town, about a half-mile east of downtown, where relics of old bathhouses remain.

Claremore's favorite and most famous son bridges the past and present for the town (the Will Rogers Days celebration runs October 30 through November 7). Hilltop property Rogers purchased for retirement became a memorial site after his death in 1935. Recently expanded, the



The Pink House Restaurant

WHERE TO EAT

HAMMETT HOUSE RESTAURANT

1616 West Will Rogers Boulevard. Open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Hammett House is known for its desserts and award-winning chili seasoning. (918) 341-7333

MOLLY'S LANDING

Ten miles south of Claremore, 3700 State Highway 66, just past the Verdigris Waterway's trio of bridges. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-10 p.m. Saturday. Delicious steak and seafood. (918) 266-7853

Will Rogers Memorial is a magnificent eight-gallery, three-theater tribute. Open at 8 a.m.-5 p.m. every day (admission free), visitors can see photographs and memorabilia from his careers as a trick roper, Ziegfeld Follies performer, radio commentator, newspaper columnist, actor, and author.

The J.M. Davis Arms and Historical Museum grew from one man's collection and a state's promise. In 1965, for the price of a dollar and a guarantee to open his collection to the public, John Monroe Davis handed over his gun collection to the state. Thirty years later, the collection—including 20,000 firearms, 1,200 German steins, thousands of political buttons, and 600 World War I posters—covers a city block.

Currently undergoing a restoration, the three-story Belvidere Mansion is a Victorian centerpiece of Claremore. Restored areas—the third-floor ballroom, an upstairs bedroom, and a men's parlor—are open for tours at 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday (donations accepted).

Horseracing fans must wait until April for live events at Will Rogers Downs, but simulcast races run Wednesday through Monday from 11 a.m. until the last horse crosses the finish line each night. And if your boots want to do some scooting, get ready for Red Steagall as he mo-seys in September 24-26 with the Western Heritage Festival.

—Joan Rhine

THE PINK HOUSE RESTAURANT

210 West Fourth Street. Open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Saturday. A refurbished Victorian originally built during Indian Territory days, the Pink House offers tearoom lunches and tasty desserts. (918) 342-2544

EL CHARO

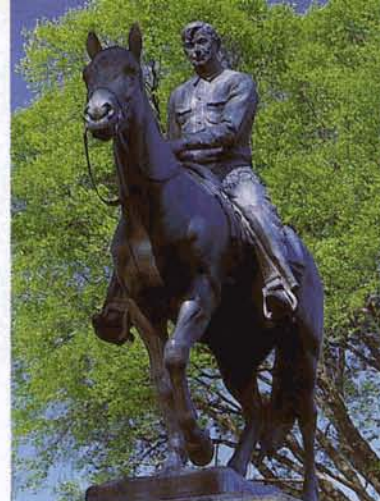
1750 State Highway 66. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Sunday. Authentic Mexican cuisine served in hearty portions. (918) 343-4116

COTTON-EYED JOE'S BBQ

715 South Moretz. Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. Easy to spot along State Highway 66 and serves barbecue at its best. (918) 342-0855

PEPPERS GRILL

1331 West Will Rogers Boulevard. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Serves Okie-Mex specialties. (918) 342-0592



Though born in Oologah, Will Rogers adored his hometown of Claremore.

WHERE TO STAY

CARRIAGE HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST

109 East Fourth Street
(918) 342-2693

Built in 1907, Carriage House offers a full breakfast and three guest quarters. Charlotte Suite, with a sitting room and balcony, runs \$80/night. Paris Room is a double at \$50/night. The Cottage, separate from the main house and with a Jacuzzi for two, runs \$100/night.

COUNTRY INN BED & BREAKFAST

20530 East 430 Road
(918) 342-1894
Visitors stay in a renovated two-story barn (the staircase runs up the silo). Decor is country antique, and breakfasts are two-course, gourmet meals. The downstairs suite runs \$64/night, with guests sleeping on a rosebud canopy bed. The upstairs suite runs \$54/night and boasts queen-sized accommodations.

BEST WESTERN WILL ROGERS INN

940 South Lynn Riggs Boulevard
(918) 341-4410
Rates run from \$54.90 for a double to \$99 for a suite with hot tub.

DAYS INN

1720 South Lynn Riggs Boulevard (918) 343-3297
\$50-\$75/night. Includes breakfast.

MOTEL CLAREMORE

812 East Will Rogers Boulevard (918) 341-3254
\$38.50-\$54/night.





Lost In Robbers Cave

photography by MICHAEL HARDEMAN

*A weekend in Robbers Cave sends author Joel Everett back
thirty years to a summer day in Hollis.*

WHEN MY FRIEND GEORGE AND I WERE TEN, we got lost. We were never totally lost—Hollis was too rolling and bare a countryside for us to be lost. The landscape itself was our map. Laid out in parcels of townships and range, we could climb a cottonwood and see the water tower in town through bands of wavering heat.

One day we told George's mother we were off to his grandmother's house, but three miles down the road, we had a change of plans. His other grandparents' house—infininitely more appealing at the time—sat twelve miles to the north. We turned north. Of course, no one but us knew this, and by late afternoon our families were frantically looking for us. Even an airplane joined in the search. We'd have been easy to spot had anyone known where to look: a couple of sunburned kids in a muddy pond.

I'm standing on a five-story sandstone rock at Robbers Cave on a hot windy day much like the one thirty years before. The wind ripples my clothes; the air cools my sweat-soaked shirt. With Bailey, my girlfriend's six-year-old daughter, in tow, I've made my way up through a boulder field. Here, as in the branches of a cottonwood near Hollis, you can view the southeastern Oklahoma countryside for miles. Green hills fold and fade to a distant haze, the indigo shadows of clouds stealing over the hills.

Bailey is hot and red-faced from the climb. Lying still on the edge of the escarpment, her eyes squeezed shut, she plays dead to see if she can attract a buzzard. The bird sits on a naked branch off and below us, teetering heavily in the breeze. I sit on a rock and watch, my eyes tired and burning at the end of two days of wind and sun.

We'd driven down the day before, stopping in Quinton at Harold Ballard's old barbershop and antique store with its posters on the barbershop mirrors you could point at and pick a hairstyle from: the crew cut (back again), the Ivy League, the butch. It was there that the memory of George first sprang to mind. He came at me, grinning from a snapshot taken in a driveway when we were neighborhood kids. It's a mixed bag, that picture, my brother and I and George's two brothers and another kid, too, all on bikes or tricycles, spirals of skid marks marring the concrete behind us.

With softly told stories only a barber can throw around, Harold cajoled me into buying an ancient Underwood typewriter. There was a weight to the typewriter I liked and a heft to the smooth, round keys, a permanence when my knuckles moved over the keyboard like striking tiny hammers into stone. Like memories.



Tableau: a leaf pauses mid-stream on Fourche Maline creek's rock bank.

Established as a state park in 1935, the Robbers Cave area was long a refuge for French traders and a hide-out for Civil War deserters-turned-outlaws.



Harold walked us to the door and bid us goodbye. "I can't walk a long ways 'cause my legs aren't strong enough," he told us as we left carrying my new treasure. Driving down Highway 71, a farmer waves at us from his mailbox, a waist-level, palm-out wave with his head down, meaning he might know us but can't tell yet.

We came across a dirty stock pond and stripped down to our underwear, then waded through the hot water, floating on our backs for awhile before getting dressed and trudging on unrefreshed, now with sand in our underwear. We came to a mulberry tree loaded with fruit and ate until our hands and faces were stained dark. We laughed and made monster hands and talked about how we were secret agents disguised in mulberry juice.

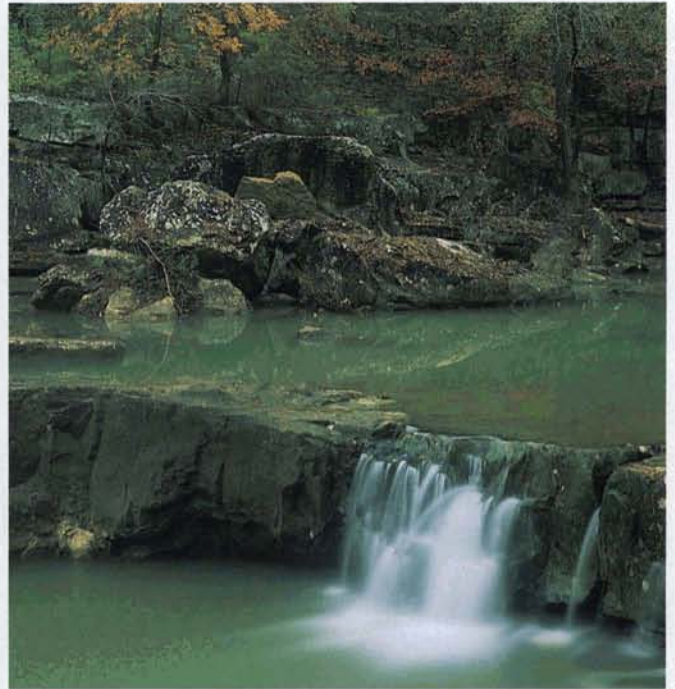
"My name is Candace Michelle ... call me Sam," the young girl swimming with Bailey in Lake Carlton tells her as they bob up out of the water near the bank. My girlfriend and I watch Bailey as Sam's parents sit on a rock adjacent to us. "Can you smile underwater?" Bailey asks, and they both disappear again. As the two reappear, Sam's mom tells her they have to get home and clean up. The girls part with a good-bye, and Bailey eventually wades back in. "I made a friend," she tells us.

Did we find water somewhere? I don't remember. We must have, because we walked for miles past the mulberry tree. I've hunted near there since and have seen the tree, still there, though broken and knotty like old mulberry trees get. This I remember. The playing stopped as the afternoon wore on. Our bodies began to give way to exhaustion.

As I watch from the shore, swimmers float in tubes or swim out to a concrete pier. An older guy, tanned and musclebound, strikes informal poses on the platform as a pair of pale girls and skinny guys in cutoffs run circles around him, shivering and laughing and clunking awkwardly into the water. Displaced droplets backlit by the sun drop off a high cliff on the far side of the lake. The scene looks full of hope, like something from the Fifties.

One thing about memories, they aren't too exact. There are pieces as distinct as dark and light, and they stand out as clearly as the hands in front of your face. George and I kneeled, worn-out and sunburned, in the sand of a cotton patch, studying the shadow of a cotton stalk we stuck in the sand in the middle of a circle we drew like a watch face with the number six facing south. No longer lost, we knew we were at the old Ron cotton gin that a tornado had destroyed a few years before. We were a long, long way from home. As we kneeled there, far from anywhere, George's grandmother suddenly appeared in the cotton field. She was a pretty woman wearing a cotton print dress and smiling at us as we sat there in the sand.

In the last sun at Lake Carlton I spot an orange soda can some swimmer had carelessly left on a concrete bench by the water's edge. The can is moist, like the orange soda drinker might come back to claim it. The mellow evening sun shines and glistens in the condensation on the side of the can. It is the epitome of something, though I don't know what. Perhaps the energy of expectancy, caught silent, shimmering with a hundred jeweled drops rolling slowly down its bright orange sides. The lake itself is a thousand moving flakes of sunshine



Along Fourche Maline Creek is the path known as Robbers Trail.

as the shadows of the bluff move across like a sheer in the window of time.

George and I were trouble. "We're synergistic," I liked to tell people, a word I picked up from biology—worse together than apart. Over the many years of our close friendship, our mothers would not know which of us had the greater (read worse) influence on the other. I haven't talked to George in years, though I think about him often, and he's still sometimes an influence, though I like to think it's good. He's now a happily married father of four and a successful banker in Houston. Sad that his kids' grandparents live hundreds of miles away. 

GETTING THERE

Besides remembrances, Robbers Cave State Park, located five miles north of Wilburton on State Highway 2 North, offers fishing, swimming, equestrian trails, and rappelling. (The park will also host the free Robbers Cave Fall Festival on October 15-17—complete with a parade, carnival, car show, and arts and crafts show.) Visitors can stay at the twenty-room state lodge for \$78 a night or at one of its twenty-six cabins with fireplaces for \$53-\$88 a night, (918) 465-2565. Other accommodations in the Wilburton area include the A-OK Motel, 509 West Main, with rooms at \$26-\$34, (918) 465-2377; the Hotel Antone, 126 West Main, with rooms at \$16.20-\$24, (918) 465-2393; the Travelers Inn Motel, north of town on State Highway 2, with rooms at \$28.50-\$45, (918) 465-5601; and the Windsong Bed & Breakfast Inn, 100 West Cedar, with rooms at \$59-\$79, (918) 465-5174.

PHOTO CONTEST

WILLIAM B. POPE



GIVE US YOUR **BEST SHOT**

Winning photographs will be published in the March/April 2000 issue of *Oklahoma Today*.

McBirney Mansion

OKLAHOMA
PARKS & RESORTS



OKLAHOMA
TODAY

PRIZES

First Place

Two nights for two people in the Bishop's Suite of Tulsa's historic McBirney Mansion.

Second Place

Two-night stay at any one of the state's seven park lodges.

Third Place

Two rounds of golf and one golf cart at any of the state's golf courses.

Six Merit Awards

One subscription to *Oklahoma Today* and an *Oklahoma Today* T-shirt.

ENTRY FORM

We give you our best photographs in each issue of *Oklahoma Today*, and now we're looking for yours. Whether you're a shutterbug with years of experience or you just picked up a point and shoot for the first time, we're interested in photographs that scream out "Oklahoma." We like landscapes and people shots; we're into oil wells, farmers, and cows in wheat fields. Is it a sports shot or something more artsy? Go ahead and give us your best take on Oklahoma. Winning photographs will be published in the March/April 2000 Travel Issue of *Oklahoma Today*.

RULES

WHO CAN ENTER: Any amateur photographer (professionals are defined as those who earn more than 50 percent of their income from the sale of photographs). *Oklahoma Today* employees and contributing photographers are ineligible.

PHOTOS: Photographs must have been taken in Oklahoma during 1997, 1998, or 1999.

DEADLINE: Postmarked by December 7, 1999.

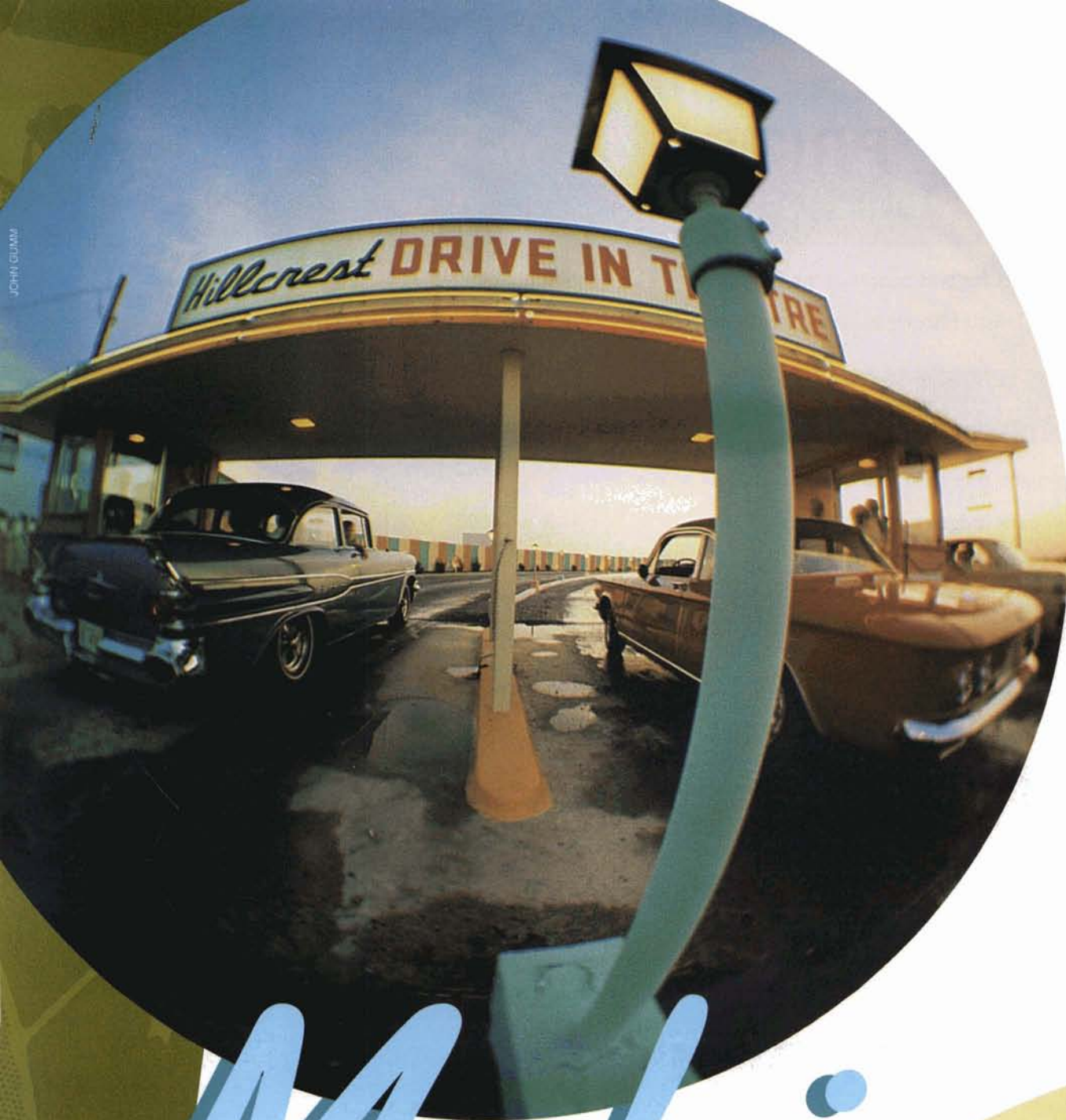
MAIL TO: *Oklahoma Today* Photo Contest, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES: Contestants may enter no more than four images.

ENTRY FORM: An entry form or photocopy of entry form must accompany each entry.

FORMAT AND LABELING: Entries must be in either slide or print format; both color and black and white will be accepted. Slides must be mounted on standard two-by-two cardboard or plastic mounts or in slide sleeves. Prints should be no larger than eleven-by-fourteen inches. No glass frames or glass mounts will be accepted. Each image should be labeled with the photographer's name, address, and telephone number; the image's title, location, and date taken; and a brief background statement about the circumstances surrounding the photograph. **SEND ONLY DUPLICATES; IMAGES WILL NOT BE RETURNED.** If your photograph wins, we will contact you for the original. **AGREEMENT AND PERMISSION:** By entering the contest, you grant *Oklahoma Today* permission to publish your photograph in the March/April 2000 Travel Issue. By entering, you guarantee that you are the sole creator and owner of the entered photograph and that the image has not been published previously.

Name	Image Title/Subject
Street	Location
City, State, Zip	Date Taken
E-mail	Brief Background
Daytime Phone	Signature



Making the

**A Few Movie Theaters
Still Thrive with a Mix
of Novelty and Nostalgia**

BRIAN GAYER IS THE REASON DRIVE-INS STILL exist in Oklahoma. Manning the projection booth at the Weatherford theater he reopened in May, the thirty-six year old can still point out his parking place—three spots south of the concession stand, third row back—first claimed by his 1973 Chevy twenty years ago.

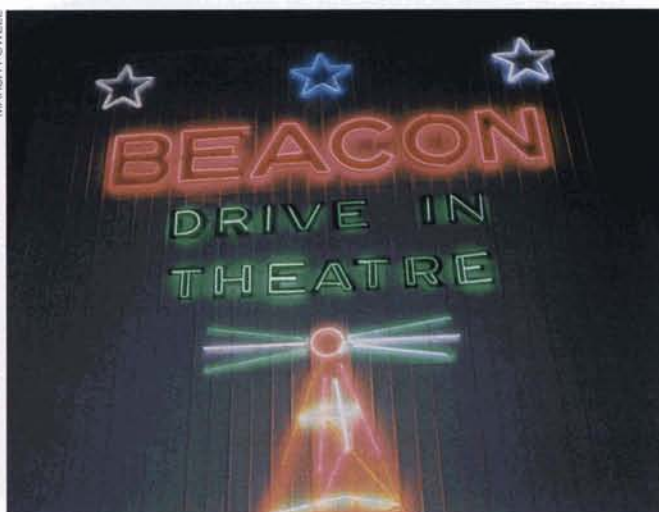
The Powell family is another reason. Nearly sixty years after his grandfather opened the Guthrie drive-in that still basks in *Twister* afterglow, Marsh Powell is making sure his children learn the family business. (Son Tyler takes tickets and daughter Brooke sells candy.)

And then there are enthusiasts like Wesley Horton, a critical care nurse from Midwest City who got so intrigued by the state's drive-ins that in 1997 he founded the American Institute of Drive-in Archaeology.

Call it an open-air theater, ozoner, or passion pit, but don't relegate the drive-in to the pop culture history books, because a handful of Oklahoma drive-ins have more than survived the arrival of the multiplex and the stadium seat. By dishing out nightly nostalgia and double features, they've convinced a mostly family audience that an "entertainment under the stars" experience is still worth the drive.

MAN HAS ACHIEVED THE ULTIMATE IN LAZINESS. Throughout the ages he has strived to make work easier, but now he has done more than that—he has made play almost effortless. The guy who designed the [drive-in] theatre had the lazy man at heart."

So read the Beacon Drive-in's souvenir program on its April 22, 1950, grand opening, and the truth wasn't far from the hype. The Guthrie drive-in wasn't the first of its kind (Richard Hollingshead Jr. introduced his idea in New Jersey seventeen years earlier) or even the first in the state (Lawton brothers Will



The Beacon Drive-in in Guthrie is one of the remaining ten in the state.

and Earl Austin opened their Austin Drive-in on May 16, 1946), but the Beacon was among the first to give a burgeoning car culture a place to "sit, look, breathe" and be entertained.

If the Depression and a world war initially sidetracked the success of the drive-in, the booming economy days of the Fifties more than compensated. Proud of their sprawling, tail-finned family cars, moms and dads didn't mind spending a dollar a carload to watch Judy Holliday in *Born Yesterday* and then pay a dime more for some roasted peanuts and a root beer. Unlike the somewhat more dressy indoor theater experience, the more than seventy drive-ins dotting the state by 1951 all affected a come-as-you-are attitude. "Dad can come in his shirt sleeves, and Mom is in style wearing the same house dress she had on when she finished the dishes," read one ad for the Beacon. Kids were welcome to come in pajamas so they could sleep in the back seat.

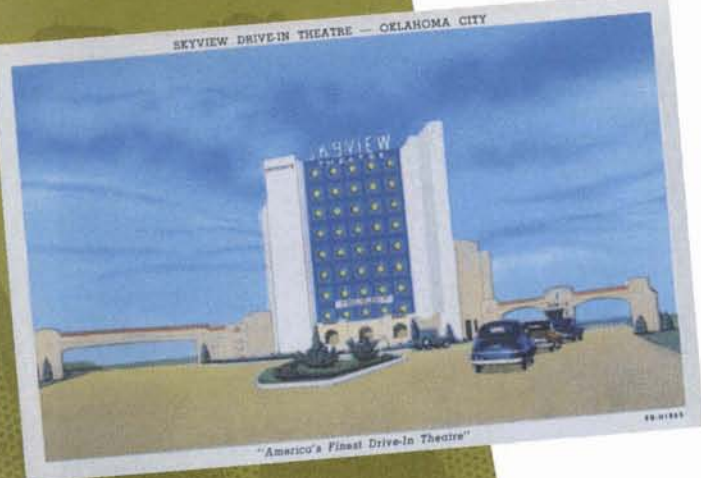
Al Powell started building the Beacon—so named because it sat on a hill and because light from the nearby airport was ever present—in 1949 and then handed ownership over to his son, Bob, in 1956. Bob managed the operation until 1985, when son Marsh took over. Today, it is the only theater in town; the indoor Melba Theatre the family also ran has since been converted for live productions and renamed the Pollard Theatre.

By Kelly Crow

Drive

Opposite page, the Hillcrest Drive-in was once one of Oklahoma City's busiest until the Will Rogers World Airport bought and razed the property in 1975.

SKYVIEW DRIVE-IN THEATRE — OKLAHOMA CITY



"America's Finest Drive-In Theatre"



But the Beacon isn't known simply as a family affair. *Twister* took care of that. Although Helen Hunt's celluloid nemesis actually "destroyed" a drive-in Warner Brothers built on the west side of Guthrie, the Beacon was close enough for most fans. When the film premiered on May 10, 1996, cars lined up outside the gate more than four hours early, and for the first time the Beacon's 450 spaces couldn't meet the demand.

"My granddad told me then, 'You'll never see anything like this again,' and he was right," says Marsh Powell of the five-week madness. "We could've run it twelve weeks, only I got tired of watching it."

TUCKED SNUGLY BETWEEN A STRIP MALL, A FUNERAL parlor, and a creek in south Oklahoma City lies a spot where finding a parking place on the weekend requires a bit of resilience—the Winchester Drive-in. Since 1968, its seventy-five-foot-tall neon cowboy has waved in lines of cars, but the sign—no longer on the outskirts of town—now sits near interstate byways amid commercial development.

The Winchester is something of an anomaly among metropolitan entertainment complexes; it has an obscure location, scratchy car-side speakers or digitally transmitted FM radio, and no chance of a coffee bar. Nevertheless, the drive-in thrives despite the presence of nearby Regal Cinemas at Crossroads Mall. Owner George Shanbour—with a nod to *Field of Dreams*—thinks he knows why. "If you get the right pictures, they'll come," he says.

But Wesley Horton, the state's self-appointed drive-in guru, says the Winchester's success isn't due solely to showing first-run fare. "It's the best-kept drive-in in the state," Horton says. "It's surrounded by a creek, and the owner has kept it up better than all the others."

Following the golden age of the drive-in in the Fifties, most of the state's 133 outdoor theaters were lost to either high-paying property developers or weedy neglect. In Oklahoma City alone, all but two of the original eleven have given way to hotels (the Northwest Hi-Way Drive-in is now a Marriott), neighborhoods (the twenty-eight-acre 14 Flags Drive-in is now Western Flags addition), and golf courses (the Lakeaire Drive-in was, for a short while, the Lakeside Golf Driving Range, and now someone has taken up residence in the original concession stand). The Riviera Drive-in is still open in Oklahoma City but reveals wear and tear not found at the nearby Winchester, which maintains a pothole-free environment and a devoted following of mostly young marrieds with children. (Too bad the playground is gone.)

A BUSY DRIVE-IN TAKES IN ABOUT A MILLION dollars a year; a multiplex gets twelve million easy. The renovation and reopening of a drive-in, then, is not a worthy investment if profit is the point. If nostalgia—that

From top left, the Caporal family issued 12,000 such postcards when their Skyview Drive-in opened in Oklahoma City in 1948; this 1950 photo shows the Beacon Drive-in before its screen was widened to make way for CinemaScope; Oklahoma City's Cinema 70 Drive-in closed in 1982 when property values soared.





While the playground is gone, Oklahoma City's Winchester Drive-in retains much of its former glory—plus digital sound and first-run fare.

'The guy who designed the drive-in theatre had the lazy man at heart.'

much-used word summing up all that once glistened and inspired—is the goal, well, join the crowd reversing a business trend first set in 1957. According to the National Association of Theatre Owners, the number of outdoor screens in the nation actually increased in the early Nineties, and newly reopened theaters like Ponca City's Airline Drive-in and Weatherford's 66 West Twin Drive-in are testaments to a resurgence in popularity.

After showing its final credits in 1982, the Airline Drive-in lay dormant until 1994, when two couples rediscovered its charm amid four-foot-tall weeds and climbing vines. Their labor transformed the cattle feedlot into a workable operation, but ownership shuffles later left the business in the hands of Jason Foster, a manager at the Ponca Plaza Twin who opened the drive-in once again in May with nightly double features, drawings for free movie passes, and room for five hundred cars. And while he expected small financial returns, he says, "Business is good, and it's getting better."

Brian Gayer's sentiments about the 66 West Twin Drive-in he unveiled in May are more enthusiastic, but then so are his memories of the open-air theater that first opened in Weatherford in 1967. "I never went to the walk-in as a child. Mom and Dad would take us to the movies in our pj's ... or we'd pull up in the pickup, prop up the lawn chairs and the speakers, and have a ball," Gayer says. "Kids today don't know what a drive-in is all about, and I think they deserve one."

As the manager of the town's indoor theater, Gayer says he

still thought he was kidding himself by getting into the drive-in business until opening weekend when eight hundred people poured through the gates to watch *Grease* and compete in a Hula-Hoop contest. (Carhops also dressed up in groovy costumes a few weeks later when the *Austin Powers* sequel premiered.)

Gayer admits business is bettered by the fact that he's the only drive-in between Oklahoma City and Amarillo, but he says people in classic cars come from as far away as Woodward and Lubbock, Texas, simply because his drive-in is one of seven still dotting Route 66.

"We may be a dying breed, but western Oklahoma loves us—we're going strong." 

GETTING THERE

The Beacon Drive-in, 2404 South Division in Guthrie, starts shows at dusk nightly in the summer season, and shows begin and continue on the weekends April through October. Admission: adults, \$4; free for children age eleven and under. Be sure and try their famous steamed hot dogs for \$1.25. (405) 282-4512.

The Winchester Drive-in, 6930 South Western in Oklahoma City, starts shows at dusk nightly during the summer and on weekends in the fall and spring. Admission: adults, \$5; children, \$2. (405) 631-8851.

The Airline Drive-in, 1800 West Highland in Ponca City, shows a double feature beginning at dusk every night. Admission: adults, \$4.50; children over age five, \$3. (580) 765-4000.

The 66 West Twin Drive-in, located a mile and a half west of Weatherford on Route 66, opens its gates at 8:30 p.m. nightly with shows starting after 9 p.m. year-round. Admission: adults, \$5; children age 12 and under, \$4. (580) 774-2117.

MELVIN B. TOLSON (1898-1966):

HEART BL^{of}ACKNESS

By David Draper Clark



MELVIN B. TOLSON OCCUPIES A SECURE PLACE WITHIN THE PANTHEON OF great American writers, without limiting such consideration to a specific literary genre or to race. The fact that his reputation continues to grow as an outstanding African-American poet is, however, something that would certainly please Tolson, for although his central theme was the dignity of the individual, regardless of race, the subject of his writings was black America, and he remains, first and foremost, a poet of blackness. But his talent extended far beyond poetry, for the respected Langston University professor and four-term Langston mayor was also a playwright; grammarian; orator; debate, football, and tennis coach; NAACP lecturer; organizer of sharecroppers' unions; painter; newspaper columnist; and theater founder and director.



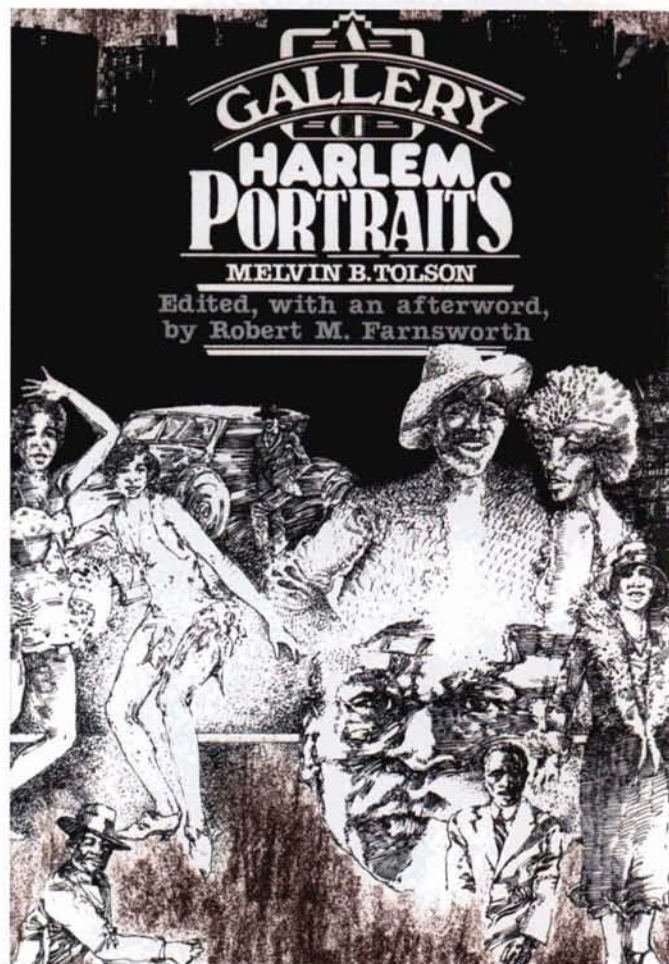
MELVIN BEAUNORUS TOLSON WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 6, 1898, in Moberly, Missouri, the son and nephew of Methodist preachers and the eldest of four children. Early in his life, Tolson's family maintained a peripatetic lifestyle, moving frequently throughout Missouri and Iowa to the different churches his father pastored.

As a child, Tolson's parents encouraged him to pursue his interests in music, painting, and reading. From his father, who taught himself how to read and write as well as speak Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, Tolson developed a love of the classics, eventually emulating his father's oratorical style and verbal histrionics. From his schoolteacher mother, he learned a repertoire of lyrical ballads and poems from the dozens she often recited while doing chores around the house. "My mother was always making up verses in her head," Tolson once said. "She was highly intelligent and imaginative, but had little formal education. Like my father, I was a bookworm."

Tolson began writing poetry at an early age. He was fourteen years old in 1912 when his first published poem, which dealt with the sinking of the *Titanic*, appeared in an Oskaloosa, Iowa, newspaper. According to critic and scholar Joy Flasch, who wrote the first book-length study of Tolson and was a close friend and colleague of the author, one of his inspirations to write verse came from reading tombstones as a young boy, including this one: "I am dead as all can see; / Prepare ye all to follow me." After reflecting on this epitaph, Tolson came up with two lines of his own: "To follow you I'm not content / Until I know which way you went."

As his interest in reading and writing continued to develop, so did others' appreciation of his poetic abilities. Tolson excelled in the language arts as a high-school student and was noted for his performances in public speaking and dramatic recitations of the work of Paul Laurence Dunbar. As a senior at Lincoln High School in Kansas City, his classmates conferred upon him the title of class poet.

Following graduation from high school in 1918, Tolson



Tolson's *A Gallery of Harlem Portraits* (1979) chronicled the 'characters, colors, and occupations' of Harlem in the 1920s and 1930s.

enrolled at Fisk University in Nashville before transferring in 1920 to Lincoln University, outside of Philadelphia. There he met Ruth Southall from Charlottesville, Virginia, who was visiting relatives at the time. Tolson graduated in 1923 with honors, and shortly thereafter, he and Ruth were married and moved to Marshall, Texas, where they raised three sons and a daughter.

All four children went on to receive post-graduate degrees, and the two surviving children, Melvin B. Tolson Jr. and Arthur L. Tolson, became distinguished university professors and scholars. Dr. Melvin B. Tolson Jr. was the first full-time black faculty member at the University of Oklahoma, where he developed graduate courses on black Caribbean and African Francophone writers that were among the first taught anywhere. Dr. Arthur L. Tolson is a professor of history at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He is the author of *The Black Oklahomans: A History, 1541-1972*.

Their father's own career as an educator began in 1924, when he accepted a position to teach English and speech at the all-black Wiley College in Marshall, which during the pre-civil rights era was the envy of the black population of the South. With his flair for words, Tolson soon established a name for himself, especially in the South and Southwest, by successfully coaching a debate team at Wiley. It went ten years without a single defeat and lost only once within a period of nearly fifteen years.

Tolson's team was also the first black debate team to be in-



Melvin Tolson presents a signed copy of his *The Harlem Gallery* to the White House library in March 1965.

cluded in the *International Journal of Forensics* as well as the first black team to compete in an interracial debate, a historic event in 1929 that pitted Wiley College against Oklahoma City University and took place at Avery Chapel in Oklahoma City. Biographer Flasch records other such victories: "During the 1934-1935 season, Tolson and his team traveled to the University of Southern California, where they debated the national champions ... [and] his students proceeded to defeat [them] ... before a crowd of eleven hundred people. When Mae West heard about the amazing record of the little Texas team, she asked to meet the members, and for years Tolson proudly displayed the autographed picture she gave him."

In other celebrated competitions, Wiley College defeated the debate teams of the University of Oklahoma (an interracial first) and, astoundingly, Oxford University. Among the outstanding Wiley College debaters whom Tolson coached were Thomas Cole, who would later become president of Wiley College; Frederick Douglass Weaver, grandson of Frederick Douglass and a member of the New York Public Housing Authority; James Farmer, founder of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE); and Henry Heights, whose name would later appear in slightly altered form as one of Tolson's literary personages, Hideho Heights (drawn from Cab Calloway's "Hide-ho!").

IN 1930, TOLSON RECEIVED A ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION Fellowship and enrolled in a graduate program in comparative literature at Columbia University. He lived in Harlem and met a number of writers and artists who were part of the Harlem Renaissance (among whom Tolson hoped to be included someday)—luminaries such as Langston Hughes, Sterling Brown, Dr. Rudolph Fisher, Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, Countee Cullen, George Schuyler, Charles S. Johnson, James Weldon White, and Wallace Thurman.

It was in this creative neighborhood where Tolson began writing *A Gallery of Harlem Portraits*, a look at the Harlem community through skillfully delineated profiles of its members, utilizing a technique modeled on Edgar Lee Master's *Spoon River Anthology*. Tolson himself also acknowledged the influence of Robert Browning and Walt Whitman. Another, perhaps more obvious influence, however, was the blues, with both traditional and original inserts included in Tolson's "portraits" depicting a broad range of characters, colors, and occupations in the Harlem of the 1920s and 1930s.

In 1937, Tolson also began writing a newspaper column for the *Washington Tribune*, an African-American newspaper in the nation's capital. Robert M. Farnsworth, another Tolson biographer, selected one hundred of these occasional pieces from seven years' worth of columns (1937-1944) and published them in a single volume as *Caviar and Cabbage* (1982), a title which echoes the original column's variety. Farnsworth's initial interest in Tolson developed after he read an article by Roy P. Basler, then chief of the manuscript division at the Library of Congress, in which he described Tolson as "the poet of our era." Records indicate that by the late 1930s, in addition to poetry, Tolson had also composed several one- and three-act plays, short stories, and novels—all of which remain unpublished.

Tolson's reputation as a writer rested on his poetry. His most famous poem, "Dark Symphony," which is divided into six "movements" reflecting the poet's interest in the formal structure of music, extols the historical accomplishments of black Americans, expresses optimism for their future, and explores the themes of class unity, racial equality, and the rise and development of oppressed peoples. The poem won the 1940 American Negro Exposition National Poetry Contest in Chicago, a competition juried by a group of distinguished writers that included Frank Marshall Davis, Arna Bontemps, and Langston Hughes. The poem also appeared in the September 1941 issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*—a development which brought Tolson national attention for the first time—and was subsequently included in *Rendezvous with America*, Tolson's first volume of collected verse, published by Dodd, Mead, and Company in 1944.

In 1947, Tolson, at the age of forty-nine, moved with his family to Langston, Oklahoma, to teach English and drama at the all-black Langston University. That same year, President William V. S. Tubman of Liberia appointed Tolson that nation's poet laureate. (Duke Ellington was named composer laureate for the same celebration, for which he wrote *Liberian Suite*.) Liberia also conferred upon Tolson the Order of the Star of Africa and invited him to attend President Tubman's 1956

WORTH *the* WAIT

In 1967, a fire at Ralph Ellison's summer home consumed around 360 pages of a manuscript, "an Oklahoma book," to which he'd already devoted more than a decade. The Oklahoma City-born author would spend nearly thirty years and some 2,000 pages trying to recapture and finish the novel that would follow *Invisible Man* into the annals of black modernism.

Sadly, death came first. Ellison's literary executor, John Callahan, edited the mass of drafts, however, and published the heart of it—368 pages—this summer. But make no mistake: *Juneteenth* (Random House, \$25) belongs to Ellison, a sweeping, stream-of-consciousness story about a light-skinned boy named Bliss and a black ex-jazzman turned preacher who rears the child only to watch him transform into a racist United States senator.

Musical motifs and a feverish dreamlike quality permeate this book of flashbacks, as if Ellison were trying to encapsulate the African-American experience all over again in contexts both sacred and profane. He preaches and sings and jokes and envisions—while we are left speechless by the eloquence of it all.

—Kelly Crow

inauguration. For Liberia's centennial celebration, Tolson produced *Libretto for the Republic of Liberia*, which is divided into eight sections corresponding to the ascending diatonic music scale. In his preface to the volume, Southern literary critic Allen Tate wrote that "for the first time ... a Negro poet has assimilated completely the full poetic language of his time." Thematically, the composition espouses racial solidarity and warns against the evils of colonial exploitation.

By the time Tolson went to work on *Libretto*, he had limited his extracurricular activities at Langston to an occasional dramatic production and to far fewer, though still frequent, public addresses (the latter of which included road trips with Roscoe Dungee, founder and publisher of the Oklahoma City newspaper, the *Black Dispatch*, and appearances to champion the cause of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher). Then in 1954, Tolson became mayor of Langston, a position he would hold for eight years.

The Harlem Gallery: Book I, The Curator, Tolson's last major work written over the course of ten years at Langston, was the only completed volume of a planned five-volume epic that was to have traced the history and accomplishments of black Americans. The four books that were to follow in this ambitious undertaking were titled, in their proposed sequence, *Egypt Land*, *The Red Sea*, *The Wilderness*, and *The Promised Land*. The text was inspired by Tolson's earlier character sketches of Harlem's socially and racially diverse community and remained unpublished until after his death, when it appeared as *A Gallery of Harlem Portraits* (1979). *The Harlem Gallery: Book I* utilizes these early poetic pieces to present both a humorous look at the citizens of Harlem and to provide a serious exploration of African-American art. Among the work's memorable characters are Dr. Obi Nkomo, a Bantu educated in the West, and John Laugart, a half-blind artist. The principal character of the epic, the curator, opens the poems with the following lines:

"Alpha"

*The Harlem Gallery, an Afric pepper bird,
awakes me at a people's dusk of dawn.
The age alters its image, a dog's hind leg,
and hazards the moment of truth in pawn.*

*The Lord of the House of Flies,
jaundice-eyed, synapses purled,
wries before the tumultuous canvas,*

The Second of May—

by Goya:

the dagger of Madrid

vs.

the scimitar of Murat.

*In Africa, in Asia, on the Day
of Barricades, alarm birds bedevil the Great White World,
a Buridan's ass—not Balaam's—between no oats and hay.*

Ironically, *The Harlem Gallery: Book I* brought Tolson more international attention and fame than any of his previous work, even

though he completed only a portion of his intended epic. Following the publication in 1965 of this brilliant and difficult work that prompted comparisons to T. S. Eliot and Hart Crane, Tolson received an invitation to present the book to Lyndon Johnson in a ceremony at the White House. Further recognition for Tolson was quick to follow, including the opportunity to deliver a Gertrude Clarke Whittall Poetry and Literature Fund lecture at the Library of Congress, an invitation to serve as the first poet-in-residence and the first appointee to the Avalon Chair in the Humanities at Tuskegee Institute, as well as the annual poetry award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In addition, he was bestowed an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Lincoln University; elected to the *New York Herald Tribune* book review board; and presented the District of Columbia Citation and Award for Cultural Achievement in Fine Arts.

In the midst of the glory, though, came reminders of mortality. In October of the same year, Tolson underwent his third operation for abdominal cancer. Within less than ten months he would have three more surgeries before the disease proved fatal on August 29, 1966. (He was buried in Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie.) Fellow poet Langston Hughes wrote in the funeral program, "There is only one Tolson."

THE CRITICAL EVALUATION OF TOLSON'S WORK REMAINS incomplete, and his unique literary contributions continue to unfold. But it is fitting that he be among the outstanding black cultural figures worldwide selected for inclusion in what has tentatively been called *Encarta Africana: The Encyclopedia of African and African-American Experience*. First envisioned nearly ninety years ago by the black intellectual, civil rights pioneer, and Tolson role model W. E. B. DuBois, this comprehensive history of Africa and people of African descent throughout the world is scheduled for publication at the turn of the millennium.

Similarly, the University Press of Virginia will publish the



Melvin Tolson and Robert Frost at Bread Loaf Writers' Colony in Woodbury, Vermont, August 1953



Tolson received the Star of Africa, the highest honor Liberia bestows, in 1947 from William V.S. Tubman, the president of Liberia.

collected works of Melvin B. Tolson in a single volume. Due for release in October, *Harlem Gallery and Other Poems* will include an introduction by Rita Dove, former poet laureate of the United States.

In assessing his achievements as a writer, Joy Flasch observed that "Tolson's decision to sacrifice quantity for quality, and when necessary, art for life, was in keeping with the integrity he maintained as an artist and as a man—despite pressures of various kinds." If Tolson had not devoted himself to doing so many things well and with such passion, not the least of which was the raising and educating of his children, perhaps he would have created a larger body of work. Like Ralph Ellison (*Invisible Man*) and Harper Lee (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), Tolson's production of published works was small yet enduringly significant. Tolson created challenging, highly intellectual texts destined as much for what has been called a "vertical audience," an audience of future readers—including critics who would perhaps better appreciate the complexities of his work—as well as for his contemporaries.

Tolson was fully aware that the difficulties of his texts would likely jeopardize their reception during his lifetime—that he was "dicing with history" and that full appreciation of his literary intentions and achievement would likely be left to fate and to the future—despite the public praise he received throughout his career from such writers as Gwendolyn Brooks, John Ciardi, Ralph Ellison, and Robert Frost, to name but a few.

Nevertheless, Tolson had no regrets with regard to his literary and professional accomplishments; facing death, he acknowledged that his life had been a rich, full, and satisfying one. "My catholicity of taste and interest takes in the Charleston and the ballet, Mr. Jelly Roll and Stravinsky, the Congolese sculptor and Phidias, the scop and the classicist," he once said.

By any measure, Tolson's life and achievements were remarkable, an assessment that was confirmed when, upon Tolson's death, newspaper obituaries deemed him "a superbly successful human being." A most fitting tribute, indeed. 

CENTER of his LEGACY

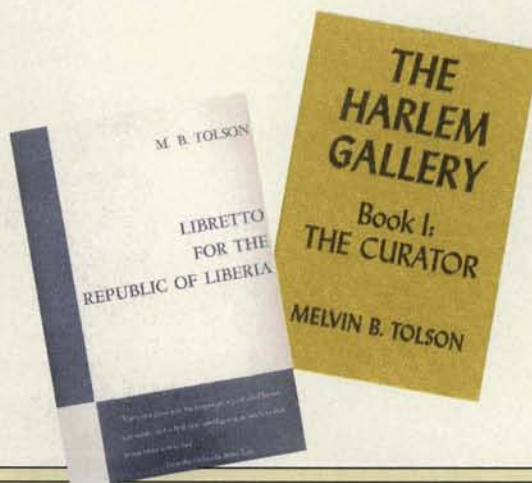
A green-keyed Remington typewriter. A pair of plastic, gray eyeglasses. An Omega Psi Phi fraternity pin and a couple of corn-cob pipes. These are the most evident traces of Melvin B. Tolson at the Black Heritage Center that Langston University named for its great poet professor in 1976.

But tucked within the shelves among the center's 10,000 volumes lies a larger legacy—his books. A complete collection of his works, including plays and poems written during his tenure, can be found at the center along with scores of books on Africa and the African-American experience, from the history of slavery and the protest movement to the fiction of the Harlem Renaissance and Toni Morrison. (It also subscribes to eighty black journals and newspapers like the *Amsterdam News* and the *Ebony Tribune*.)

The Black Heritage Center feels more like a museum than a library, though, because of its African art and artifact collection that includes several dozen ancestral masks, hand-carved drums and guitars, small ivory boxes, Ethiopian brass crosses, metal spears, and African "spirit figures" like a carved wooden Masai figurine and gold weights shaped in human form once used for trading.

The center is located in Sanford Hall on the campus of Langston University, located twelve miles east of Interstate 35 on State Highway 33 in Langston. Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and 2-10 p.m. Sunday. (Closed Saturday.) Free. (405) 466-3346.

—Kelly Crow





SUNDOWN

AT THE

Selman Bat Cave



by Gordon Grice

At Alabaster Caverns State Park I took an oath of secrecy. Then I was driven down dirt roads to the hidden place: 340 acres of red butte and grassy prairie where tangled trees stirred in the hot wind and a creek rich with fish crawled under a wooden footbridge.

A city of a million lies hidden in this seemingly desolate country. It is an unusual city which vanishes entirely in the winter. Its adult population is exclusively female. Each female has a child to tend. The children cluster together in a cave all night while their mothers go out to look for food.







The existence of this city—or colony, as the biologists call it—isn't what the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation wants to keep secret. In fact, the department's Wildlife Diversity Program uses the bats to educate Oklahomans about ecology. The secret is merely the exact location of the Selman Bat Cave where they roost: human intrusion could harm the bats or convince them to relocate.

The average person might prefer the bats to leave. That's an attitude generally based on bad information. The bat's bad press started with old superstitions. Beliefs originating in both Africa and Europe described bats as souls of the dead. In some legends, bats are even portrayed as emissaries of Satan. Gargoyles and other artistic representations of demons often sport bat-like wings. Popular entertainment from *Dracula* to *Dark Shadows* has contributed to the bat's PR problems. Then there's the myth that rabies is rampant among bats. It's not a good idea to handle wild animals of any kind, especially those sick enough to let themselves be caught. Even so, worldwide, bats are less likely to transmit rabies than are dogs.

Finally, there's the vampire bat. This natural oddity really does lap up the blood of mammals—typically cattle, horses, and other livestock, though occasionally one will go after the nose or toes of a sleeping human being. The victim of such an attack typically sleeps through it and suffers no ill effects, but the occasional case of rabies makes vampire bats worth avoiding. The good news for us is that we don't have vampire bats in Oklahoma; the bad news for bats is that the average person doesn't know the difference between kinds of bats.

Almost 1,000 species of bats exist in the world, and North America is home to forty-five species. The colony near Freedom consists of Mexican free-tailed bats and forms one of the largest colonies of any mammalian species in the world. (Bracken Cave in central Texas houses more than 20 million individuals; by most estimates, that's more populous than the largest human cities.) The inhabitants of the Selman Bat Cave spend the summer here, migrating to Mexico for the winter.

Mexico does have vampire bats, and ranchers have to deal with rabies, a fact that has caused trouble for free-tails. Their large colonies make them a visible target, and ranchers frequently dynamite caves and old mines to destroy what they believe to be vampire bats, but what are really the free-tail colonies. They also burn tires in the mouths of free-tail caves, sometimes killing millions of bats at once. The oily residue of the fires can permanently ruin the walls as bat roosts. Call it a deadly case of mistaken identity.

Tactics like that, along with urban development, pesticides, and simple vandalism have made sizable dents in the free-tail bat population in both Mexico and the United States. Biologists get concerned about the decline of any species, but the Mexican free-tail is a special case: it is a mammal that provides unique benefits to humans that almost nobody knows about.

The Selman Bat Cave, a popular migratory home for the Mexican free-tailed bat, is located near Alabaster Caverns State Park in northwest Oklahoma. This view looks east from the north side of the park.







Although bats don't inhabit this particular cave, visitors often take guided tours of the Alabaster Caverns from April through October to

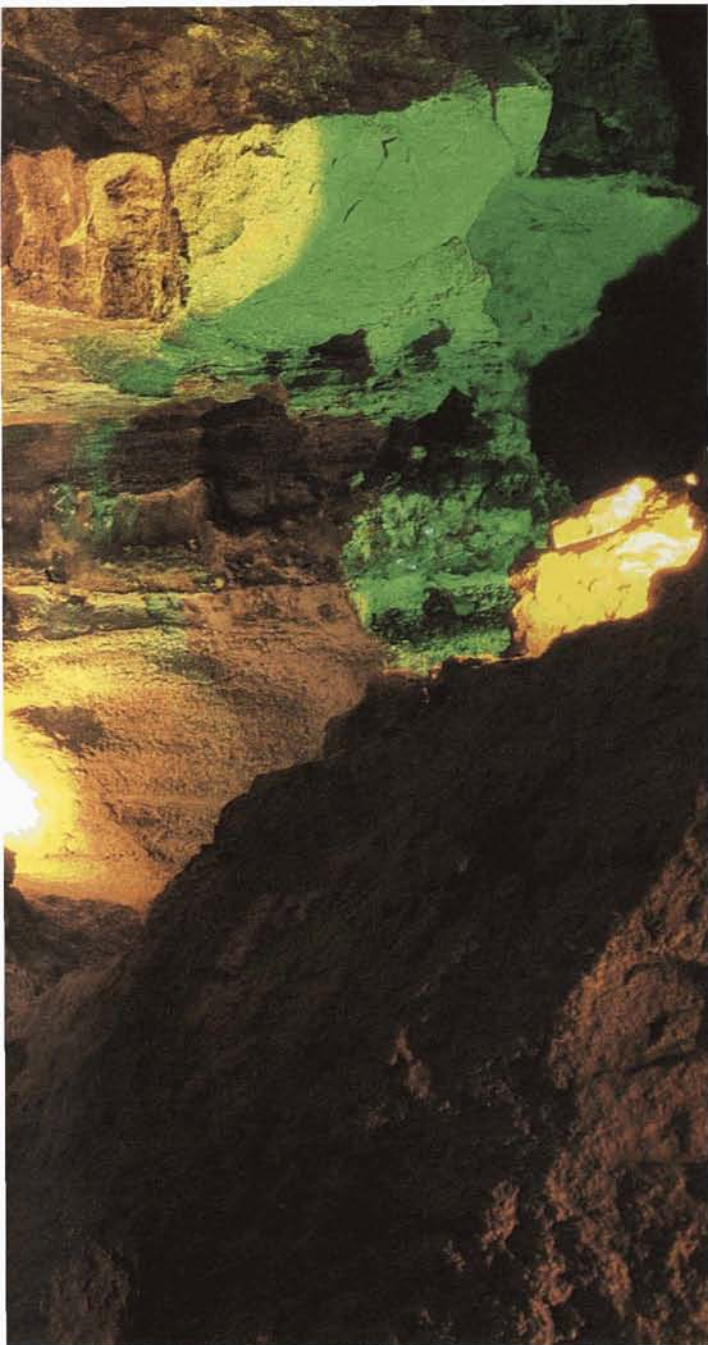
The Selman Cave colony devours an estimated ten tons of flying insects each night. Many of these insects feed on crops. For example, a type of moth known in its larval stage as the corn earworm or cotton bollworm causes more damage than any other agricultural pest in the United States. When these moths migrate north from Mexico each June, free-tailed bat colonies in Texas and Oklahoma await them. The moths migrate at high altitudes, using swift winds to travel 250 miles or more each night. Hundreds of feet in the air, the moths are beyond the reach of virtually all predators—except Mexican free-tailed bats. The free-tails are the highest flyers among bats, and moths may comprise 90 percent of their diets during this migration. Furthermore, free-tails may range one hundred miles from their home caves in search of insects, so they affect a large area. The corn earworm is but one example

of a crop-damaging insect which free-tails help control. It's hard to quantify how much impact bats are really having on crop pests, but a study of the free-tails at Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico gives a hint. Scientists found half the diet of the Carlsbad bats was made up of insects that eat cotton and alfalfa. The nearest such crops were forty miles away.

Eating insects isn't the only benefit of free-tails. Strange as it may sound, the guano, or droppings, produced by large colonies of bats is a valuable resource. An incredibly rich natural fertilizer, bat guano also seems to destroy nematodes, fungi, and other plant-infesting parasites. During the Civil War, the Confederacy even mined a free-tail cave near

San Antonio for guano, which was used to make saltpeter, an ingredient in gunpowder. One ounce of free-tail guano contains billions of bacteria, including species so far found in no

The Selman Cave colony devours an estimated ten tons of flying insects each night.



learn more about the bat habitat.

other habitat. Microbiologist Bernie Steele found that some of these bacteria produce chemicals that can be used in detoxifying industrial wastes and making organic insecticides. Some of the bacteria also look promising as sources of antibiotics.

Wildlife officials hope to gain other benefits from the inhabitants of the Selman Bat Cave, like tourism and education. The cave houses a maternity colony, a group of female free-tailed bats that gather to give birth and raise their pups for a few months before returning to coed colonies at various sites in Mexico for the winter.

The Selman flock is one of five maternity colonies in Oklahoma. The colony has summered in the Selman cave for years, but only recently has it been controlled by the Department of Wildlife Conservation. After purchasing the cave from local rancher Betty Selman in 1996, the wildlife department began operating tours in 1997.

Tourists register in advance for one of a limited number of summer tour dates, pay a small fee, and show up at the appointed time at Alabaster Caverns State Park near Freedom. From there, the group takes a bus to the cave area and then takes a nature walk through the region, guided by professional biologists and volunteers interested in ecology.

On my tour, we learned about tamarisk trees with roots a hundred feet deep. We heard about yucca plants, which are pollinated exclusively by one species of moth. The yucca houses the moth, and neither the plant nor the insect could live without the other. We learned about many other types of plant and animal life on the prairie, and a common theme emerged—we were learning about living things in the context of the system in which they live, a lesson scientists have been emphasizing for at least thirty years now.

I'd never seen it presented in quite so vivid a way. I'd come to see a show starring bats; instead, I saw a fascinating ensemble cast of sand plums and groundwater, rabbits and wood ducks, insects and bobcats (bobcat tracks, at least). A casual daytime visitor here, even a very observant one, might never have guessed that bats were an integral part of this system.

If we are only now beginning to suspect how bats fit into the natural scheme of things, it shouldn't be too surprising. Because they conduct their business in the air or in dark retreats, and mostly at night,

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL



Above, a common Oklahoma red bat feeds two of her young; below, the *Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana*, the Mexican free-tailed bat, is a subspecies of the most common bat found in the southern states, the Brazilian free-tailed bat, and one of twenty-two species of bats found in Oklahoma.

MERLIN D. TUTTLE: BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL





Many observers have compared an emergence of bats to a plume of smoke. To me, the event looked more like a tornado.

Bats are the only mammals that have achieved true flight, making them unique in the animal world. A colony is seen here funneling out at dusk to search for food.

the study of bats is far behind that of many other animals. People have long had trouble making sense of bats. Cherokee and Creek legends depict bats as turncoats or rejects in a war between mammals and birds (the legends disagree where to stick the bat). A legend from India has the bat as a disgruntled bird who prayed to be turned into a human—a request only partly honored, giving the bat teeth, hair, and a human face. In the sixteenth century, a scientific book pronounced them to be “intermediate between the bird and the mouse.” Common names of various types of bats, such as flying fox and mouse-eared bat, confuse the issue further. Carolus Linnaeus, the founder of modern biological classification, grouped bats with carnivores, such as cats and dogs, because of the look of their teeth. Later, after more bat species had been catalogued, Linnaeus revised his opinion. This time he declared the bats related to primates—you and me. His reasoning: bats breastfeed in much the same manner as monkeys.

Eventually scientists recognized bats as a separate order not closely related to other mammals. That decision left a lot of other questions to be answered. For example, how do bats navigate in the dark? Nowadays, most people know that bats perceive the world as echoes of their own voices, but when that theory was proposed in the 1930s, it seemed like a crackpot idea. In those days, the words “radar” and “sonar” hadn’t even been invented.

Since then, science has learned a lot about echolocation, the bat’s navigation technique. Different species use different frequencies, so a scientist with an ultrasound detector can sim-

ply point a tile machine at the sky, set a dial, and find out whether a particular species is in the area without ever seeing it. The echolocating capacities of some bats are so keen they can see the texture of an object. You can throw a pebble into the air and watch a free-tailed bat swoop for it. But the bat veers away before he reaches the pebble, because he can tell from a few feet away that it’s not an insect.

The amazing repertoire of the free-tailed bat doesn’t stop there. Free-tails use the Doppler effect to tell whether they are approaching or receding and even to gauge their speed. They memorize their home turf and can find their way even when rain or the presence of millions of other bats blurs the picture. The free-tail performs feats so amazing that no one has figured them out yet. When scientists first began to study huge maternity colonies, they assumed that mothers returning from a night of foraging simply nursed any handy pup. But when they



Female Mexican free-tailed bats are able to find and nurse their own offspring from among the many millions of babies in the nursery.

tested this hypothesis by genetic analysis and by marking and monitoring individual bats, they discovered that each mother finds and nurses her own pup, even though there are literally millions from which to choose. Apparently she recognizes her pup by its distinctive voice, then confirms his identity by smell.

Another mystery is the free-tail's ability to navigate during migration. Bats banded in northwestern Oklahoma have been caught 1,104 miles south in Mexico. During the migration, the bats may also fly at extraordinary altitudes; they've been spotted at ten thousand feet. They may be looking at the stars—contrary to the cliché, they aren't blind. Or maybe they can somehow read the earth's magnetic field. So far, no one is sure.

The free-tail's uncanny abilities aren't limited to navigation. It is the fastest of all bats, topping out at sixty miles per hour; its shape reflects their aerodynamic ability: the wings arc longer and sharper than most bats', the fur sleek and streamlined. The free-tail can survive not only at high altitudes, but also in caves that would be toxic to humans. The Selman Cave is an example; the concentration of ammonia there is potentially fatal to a human being but the bats simply slow their metabolism to handle it. On the other hand, their metabolism can also run very fast. A bat may devour half her weight or better every night to maintain her flying heart-rate of 900 beats per minute. A mother free-tail may double that consumption because she has to produce one-fourth of her own weight in milk every day.

My nature walk at the Selman Bat Cave ended near dusk. We stopped in a clearing on benches made from a native red cedar and looked west. So far we hadn't seen any bats. We hadn't even seen the entrance to their cave; that was to remain secret. Now we waited for the first bats to appear. We were told a few individuals, the scouts, would fly out before the rest of the bats to make sure things looked safe.

The buttes turned from red to gray as the light diminished. Perched on a power line that ran behind the buttes was the unmistakable silhouette of a great horned owl. The bird was so still it might have been a cardboard cutout. It was watching for the same thing we were. Suddenly there seemed to be a few bits of confetti floating in the air between two buttes. The scouts were out.

I had seen pictures of free-tails. Their tails stick out past the web of skin that connects the hind legs. Their noses turn up pertly; their rounded ears thrust forward, giving them the look of inquisitive Chihuahuas. None of this was discernible on the real free-tails I was seeing now. From a distance, the only traits that distinguished them from other bats, at least to my untrained eyes, were the crisp points of their wings.

Soon more little pieces of confetti were trickling out of a butte. Many observers have compared an emergence of bats to a plume of smoke. To me, the event looked more like a tornado. It formed slowly, thickening into a column that must have been several hundred feet tall. The top of the tornado broadened, and then the whole thing seemed to tip over and spiral over our heads.

All was strangely silent, as if the countryside was holding its

breath. The bats were sending out their calls, but all were too high-pitched for us to hear. We were surrounded by a silent cacophony. Now the bats looked more like a river streaming directly over us. Most of them flew too high for me to make out their features; they remained mere abstract shapes. The lowest-flying bats were twelve or fifteen feet above me.

My most striking memory of the Selman Bat Cave is the optical illusion created by the fast-beating wings of those low flyers, a sight that seemed to tie the visible world to the unseen connections around me. Instead of long thin blades, the wings looked like short thick triangles surrounded by dark haloes. The haloes were wing tips moving faster than a human eye could follow. They gave the illusion of being nearly nothing. 

GETTING THERE

It may be too late to see Selman's bats this year since tours ended in August, but the Department of Wildlife Conservation is already preregistering for next year's bat viewing tours, which run weekends during the summer and can accommodate seventy-five people per night. Guests will be given a meeting time and place when they preregister. Cost: adults, \$8; children, \$5. (405) 521-4616.

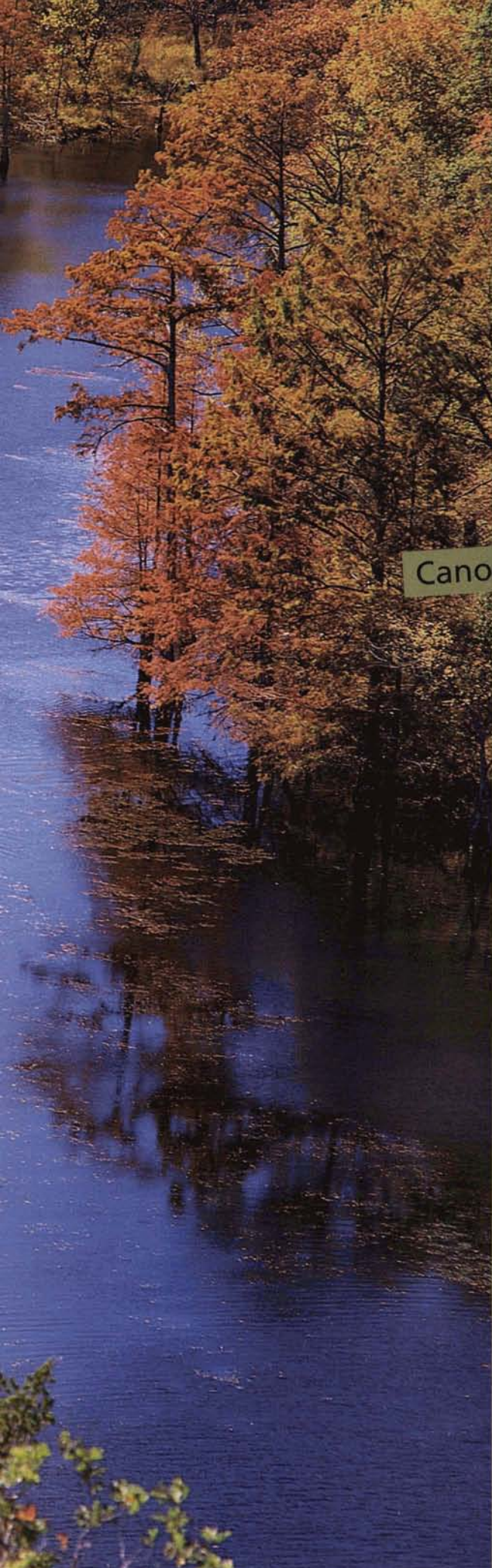
Ten miles west of the Selman Cave is the Alabaster Caverns State Park, located on State Highway 50 six miles west of Freedom, which welcomes nearly 2,000 bats to its caves beginning in September. Daily tours are held on the hour at 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (switches to 4 p.m. in October). The park also allows wild caving in their five undeveloped caves at 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily through September 30. (580) 621-3381.

Organized in 1994, the Bat Conservation Society of Oklahoma has information on the state's bats by county, a twenty-four-hour access line where people can call to report injured bats or bat roosts, a B.A.T. Club educational program, and how-to plans for building a bat house or garden. Annual membership is \$10. (405) 341-9539 or members.aol.com/bcsok. On a global level, the Austin-based Bat Conservation International leads the industry in providing information on bat houses and detectors, echolocation calls, research projects, and literature on saving the animals and their natural habitats. (512) 327-9721 or www.batcon.org.

A "Bats!" exhibit runs October 1-31 at the Omniplex, 2100 Northeast Fifty-second Street in Oklahoma City. Kids can hang upside down in the wooden bat house, walk through a black-lit bat cave, hear bat squeaks, and sit in on myth-dispelling bat chats, to be held at 2 p.m. each Saturday. (405) 602-6664 or www.omniplex.org.







ROWING ONCE ROWING TWICE

Canoeing Across Oklahoma

ON ANY SUMMER DAY ON OKLAHOMA'S SCENIC rivers, you will see them: canoe neophytes, furtively wrestling with their overturned watercraft as their once-dry clothes and towels, sack lunches, and coolers full of beer and bologna work their way downstream. It's not hard to understand how it happens since canoes are unstable, unwieldy beasts until all occupants are seated, oars in hand. Once the seafarers are able to work with the canoe and meet its ancient engineering halfway, though, the canoe transforms into a remarkably agile craft, a leisurely, tranquil way to rediscover the beauty of Oklahoma rarely seen from a car window.

Variations on the canoe have been used throughout the world for thousands of years, from the Arctic to the South Pacific. In the South China Sea off the Philippines, Filipino fishermen pilot canoe-like *banca* boats several miles from shore, expertly cutting through the waves without fear of disappearing in the choppy foam. Native Americans, of course, piloted many canoes, some tribes in the Pacific Northwest building ones large enough to transport fifty people comfortably. European explorers often used bark canoes to navigate twisting frontier rivers, including the Illinois, Arkansas, and Mountain Fork rivers and the North Fork of the Red River near the current site of Lake Altus-Lugert.

by George Lang

SAFETY

on the River

HAL CANTWELL



Be a competent swimmer. You should be able to handle yourself underwater.

Be aware of white-water river hazards. Hazards can include high water, which increases the power and speed of the flow, or cold, which drains strength and impairs decision-making. If water

temperature is below 50 degrees, a wet suit or dry suit is essential for protection.

Boating alone is discouraged. The minimum party is three people per party or two to a craft.

Have a frank knowledge of your boating ability. Don't attempt rivers or rapids which lie beyond that ability.

Be practiced in self-rescue. Know how to escape from an overturned craft, especially if running rapids Class IV or greater, or paddling in cold environmental conditions.

Be sure your boat and gear are in good repair. The more isolated and difficult the run, the more rigorous your inspection should be.

Have strong, properly-sized paddles or oars. Carry sufficient spares for the length and difficulty of the trip.

SOURCE: SAFETY CODE OF AMERICAN WHITEWATER

HAL CANTWELL



On the Canadian River near Lexington, two men fish from their canoe.

CANOE RENTALS

Bear in mind, many outfitters base their months of operation on seasonal weather and may close earlier or later than listed. Call for confirmations.

ARROWHEAD CAMP

Tahlequah, (918) 456-1140;
seasonal operation; 6 mile:
\$11 per person; 12 mile:
\$13. Rafts available.

March-Oct; 2 1/2 mile: \$20 per
canoe; 8 1/2 mile: \$30 per
canoe (no children under 8).
Kayaks available.

BEAVERS BEND

RIVER FLOATS

Broken Bow, (580) 494-6070;

DIAMONDHEAD RESORT

Tahlequah, (918) 456-4545;
March-Oct; 6 mile: \$10.50 per
person; 12 mile: \$13.50. Rafts



Boating near the Sanbois Mountains on Lake Carlton in Robbers Cave State Park

Previous page, the Mountain Fork River

FOR THE MOST PART, OKLAHOMA'S COMMERCIAL CANOEING industry uses metal or fiberglass versions, mainly because they are durable and can withstand the rigors of the state's shallow, rocky waterways and the punishment often inflicted on inexperienced oarsmen. The key to a successful canoeing experience is consistency—paddling alternately on the port and starboard sides of the boat during straight shots and using basic rudder principles to steer through turns. After all, trying to right a capsized canoe filled with river water is never an easy task.

Canoeing opportunities abound in Oklahoma, with each region of the state offering unique experiences. The most popular site for such expeditions is the Illinois River, a scenic, blue-green Class II waterway (gentle rapids and turns) extending from the northeastern corner of the state, flowing into Lake Tenkiller, and feeding crystal reservoirs along the way. Tahlequah is the gateway to an abundance of canoe liveries and camps located along a seventy-mile stretch of the Illinois. Most of these liveries can be accessed from State Highway 10 just east of Tahlequah. Cost per person for a twelve-mile canoe trip averages about \$15, and while summer is busy, many liveries are branching out from the typical Memorial Day to Labor Day season to offer more temperate



and kayaks available.

EAGLE BLUFF RESORT

Tahlequah, (918) 456-3031; April-Sept; 6 mile: \$11.35 per person; 12 mile: \$13.70. Rafts and kayaks available.

FALCON FLOATS

Tahlequah, (918) 456-8058; April-Oct; 6 mile: \$10 per person; 12 mile: \$12. Rafts and sit-on-top kayaks available.

GREEN RIVER

Tahlequah (918) 456-4867; March-Oct; 5-7 mile: \$8 per

person; 10-12 miles: \$9.

Rafts available.

HANGING ROCK CAMP

Tahlequah, (918) 456-3088; year round; 6 mile: \$10 per person; 12 mile: \$12. Rafts available.

LAKE ELMER THOMAS RECREATION AREA

Ft. Sill, (580) 442-5854; May-Sept; \$2 per hour or \$15 per day for one canoe.

Paddleboats and surf bikes available.

RIVERSIDE CAMP

Tahlequah, (918) 456-4787; April-Sept; 6 mile: \$10.50 per person; 13 mile: \$12.50. Rafts available.

RIVERSIDE CANOE RENTAL

Broken Bow, (580) 835-7130; Mar-Oct; 4 mile: \$23 per canoe; 9 mile: \$33. Kayaks available.

ROBINSON'S LANDING ON LAKE LAWTONKA

Lawton, (580) 492-4940; April-Sept; \$6 per hour per

canoe. Paddleboats available.

TAHLEQUAH FLOATS

Tahlequah, (918) 456-6949; year round but reservations only in off-season; 7 mile: \$10 per person; 15 mile: \$13. Rafts available.

WW TRADING POST & CANOE RENTALS

Broken Bow, (580) 584-6856; March-Oct; 4 mile: \$25 per canoe; 10 mile: \$35. Group rates and kayaks available.

autumn and early spring trips. (For more information, call the Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce at 800/456-4860 or check out www.tahlequahok.com.)

The Mountain Fork River, a Class III river located in southeastern Oklahoma near and within the Beavers Bend Resort Park, offers more challenging rapids, a wilder ride than the Illinois, and is located in an area renowned for its breathtaking autumnal beauty. While the Mountain Fork is best known for its superb fly-fishing, canoeing and rafting are gaining in popularity. Canoeing activity on the upper and lower branches of the Mountain Fork is greatest from March through October, and most of the canoe liveries—including Beavers Bend River Floats, Goodwater Bait & Canoe, and WW Trading Post & Canoe Rentals—are only open during this seven-month window.

Unless you find white water chilled below fifty degrees a pleasantly bracing, invigorating experience, going during season is probably a good rule of thumb. However, those for whom adventure knows no season can rent canoes year-round at Riverside Canoe Rental. All liveries are within ten miles of Broken Bow on U.S. Highway 70. More tranquil waters can be found on the Glover River near Battiest. Tree Top View Cabins offers free canoe use when visitors rent one of the comfortable, rustic cabins in this secluded hideaway. (For cabin rental

information, call 580/241-5599.)

Although canoeing is associated primarily with rivers, paddling the shoreline of Oklahoma's lakes can be an equally challenging experience—the canoe moving almost exclusively under your steam alone. Most state parks situated on lakes offer canoe rentals through at least one marina, with hourly or daily rates available. Some lake canoeing adventures can be as wild as a Class III—the strong winds of Wayne Wallace Lake at Robbers Cave State Park whip down from the San Bois Mountains, and the resulting currents can give even experienced paddlers a strenuous workout. For those seeking a more tranquil experience, the North Fork of the Red River at Quartz Mountain Resort Park offers a close view of indigenous wildlife on a very mellow, Class I waterway. Quartz Mountain Paddleboats offers canoe rentals on the North Fork just below the Lake Altus-Lugert dam at \$3 per half-hour.

Regardless of your taste in challenge—Class III river or gentle stream—canoes bring you closer to nature than virtually any other watercraft. Dipping an oar and forcing the long, hydrodynamic boat through the current is as elemental as our relationship with the water can get, and after thousands of years, it is a form of traveling that has changed very little. Steady movements and practiced rowing will take you where you want to go. 

Counter • CULTURE •

AN ANADARKO APOTHECARY RETURNS TO DAYS OF LIMEADES AND MILK SHAKES

By Ron Jackson • Photography by J.D. Merryweather

TUCKED AMID THE RED, ROLLING EARTH OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA IN A town once settled by chance and determination lies another refuge of American nostalgia. ♦ The glory of its grandeur has actually always existed, from within the face of its now-ancient bricks and the enchanting era of simplicity it has come to symbolize. Progress—or arguably the lack thereof—merely covered its true beauty. ♦ Until now. ♦ Creamy, vanilla milk shakes again flow in downtown Anadarko along

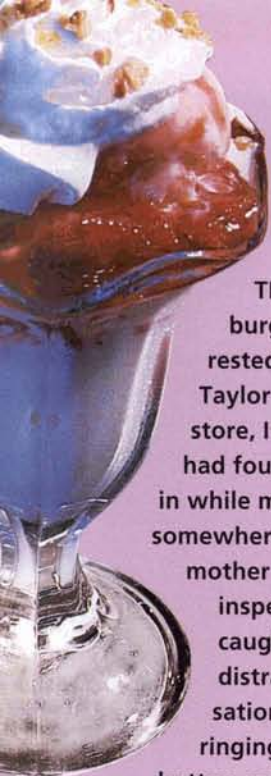


a grand, wooden bar counter last seen in these parts nearly a century ago. Also returned—a splash of sunlight through the storefront's windows and the buzz of the lunchtime crowd, which lingers along West Broadway as perhaps it never has before. ♦ Such is the tale of the Soda Fountain Eatery at Melton Drug—an eighty-eight-year-old drugstore lunch counter owned by two history-loving romantics.





Twelve-year-old Sammie Moran, a devoted customer, awaits her order from one of the twelve usually occupied stools in Melton Drug. For more than a year, Terrie Clayton has satisfied customers with fountain specialties made behind the 1912 counter.



Fountains of Youth

THE AROMA OF SIMMERING hamburger patties and French fries arrested my sense of smell as I entered Taylor Rexall Drug in Norman. Inside the store, I did a double take as if my eyes had found a different store to look around in while my nose lingered at a lunch counter somewhere down the street. As my grandmother walked up and down the aisles inspecting cards, lotion, or whatever caught her fancy, I followed, but I was distracted by the sounds of idle conversation and laughter farther back. The ringing and clinking of the old punch-button cash register at the front of the store almost drowned out the popping and sizzling coming from the grill in back, but the sounds grew as we passed from aisle to aisle, nearer and nearer. When we reached the end of one aisle, I peered around the corner and saw my first soda fountain.

Sitting on stools in front of the counter were a half-dozen people, talking and eating, while behind, a lady stood flipping hamburger patties, steam wafting up from the grill. A soda machine caught my eye. I desperately wanted to climb onto a vacant vinyl-topped red stool and order a pimento cheese sandwich, but my grandmother said it was time to go. That was 1976.

TWENTY YEARS LATER, I WALK INTO OKLAHOMA City's Nichols Hills Drug and join the diners at the counter. A red-headed girl takes my order. It is midday and all the stools are taken, the diners talking among themselves. A gray-haired gentleman reads the paper while eating a sandwich and pickle.

In these modern times of chain restaurants and superstores, it's too easy to overlook a remote soda fountain tucked discreetly into the corner of a forgotten drugstore. Many fall victim to the wrecking ball or renovation plans. A special few, however, are kept alive by dedicated patrons. Just before leaving, I notice the older man put down his paper and wipe his mouth. The girl smiles at him and tells him she'll put the bill on his tab. Won't hear that at a drive-thru.

—John Gifford

Gifford is a business writer for a management consulting firm. He lives in Oklahoma City.

Melton Drug's dramatic rebirth last year followed a whirlwind remodeling project completed in just three months. The store's comeback, however, has actually been in the making since 1969. That's when Philip and Phyllis Melton returned to their hometown of Anadarko from Lubbock, Texas, to purchase the old drugstore for \$70,000 from Albert Connel, a retiring pharmacist who had owned the business for forty-one years.

The Meltons, owners ever since, are only the drugstore's third caretakers since 1901. "They served chicken-salad sandwiches and grilled-cheese sandwiches at the time ... quick-type stuff," recalls Philip, a fifty-seven-year-old pharmacist with thirty-five years of experience. "This was a traditional drugstore when we bought it."

The Meltons have since made it a classic.

Last November the Meltons unveiled their new-look drugstore eatery with layers of time-worn character. Contractors first exposed the building's original bricks, which now boldly jump out from behind the store's freshly painted interior plaster walls. The easy-to-ignore dropped ceiling was also ripped down to reveal an antique tin-plated ceiling in excellent shape. Twenty-five gallons of paint later, the tin ceiling now crackles with new life. Remodeling efforts also uncovered the storefront's large picture windows, which again invite in the Oklahoma sunlight. "I remember when we took the ceiling down and exposed those windows," says Phyllis. "It took my breath away."

Customers are also left breathless by the store's charm. "We love this place," says DeLores Lobbato, of Cedar Grove, New Jersey. In Anadarko on a week-long mission trip with a group of forty others, she found the drugstore by chance on her last day in town. "It has a lot of character, and there's a very warm feeling here."

A Norman Rockwell feeling.

The imagination is rewarded with every glance across the store. A stuffed elk head juts from one wall. An antique camera rests high atop a shelf. An 1840 portrait of Philip's great-grandparents gazes down sternly. Much of the drugstore's inventory originated in Phyllis Melton's antique collection, and most pieces come with a personal story. For instance, a stuffed bobcat on display was shot on a deer-hunting trip by the Melton's youngest son, Rob, when it attacked him in a tree. A wooden children's wagon showcased high atop the back bar also has special significance. "The wagon was given to us by a local lady who's almost ninety," Philip says. "It had belonged to her father, and she wanted us to have it for the store."

Anchoring the entire establishment are the hand-crafted, wooden bar counter and back bar that date back to 1912. Originally in a St. Louis saloon, the Meltons purchased them at an auction for \$7,500. The twenty-five-foot-long bar counter (which replaced a none-too-exciting plywood and linoleum counter) amazingly resembles the marble one used at the drugstore earlier in the century.

The Dinkler family first opened the store in 1901, shortly after the land lottery that created the present-day counties of Kiowa, Caddo, and Comanche. On August 6, 1901, about 15,000 lucky souls were announced from a pool of 165,000 entrants as the winners of a claim. Hobart, Anadarko, and Lawton were then named county seats, and a run was undertaken to settle town al-





Philip and Phyllis Melton daily serve a dine-in lunch crowd of around two hundred people. Hundreds more pass through the store each day leaving with to-go orders or sitting to enjoy dessert and fountain drinks in the afternoon.

lotments. Somewhere in the wake of the madness were the Dinklers, on a quest to open a drugstore.

The Meltons understand their date with destiny. "This is something that has always been in the back of my mind," says Phyllis of running the drugstore lunch counter. "This is something we've always wanted to do, and it's been fun."

One other factor has played into the drugstore's booming success of late—its delicious food. Phyllis is a master cook, and the eatery's six-page menu is stuffed with a wide variety of entrées from the popular quesadillas to grilled chicken breast sandwiches with sautéed mushrooms, grated cheddar cheese, and ranch dressing. How about a giant stuffed baked potato with grilled chicken, sour cream, and butter? Or a Caesar salad and a serving of homemade bread? Or a meaty bowl of taco soup?

Philip does his part in the kitchen when he isn't filling prescriptions in the back of the store, even making 120 pounds of fudge one morning before the doors ever opened. "We enjoy visiting with all the people who come in, and it's unbelievable the people we get in here," Philip says. "One afternoon we got fifty physicians from France. Not one of them spoke English. We had a lot of fun taking orders that day. We brought out plates of food, and they just pointed at what they wanted."

Another day the Meltons were visited by a group who had ridden Harleys from Oklahoma City along Route 66. The bik-

ers had flown to Chicago from France and rented motorcycles en route to California. "A friend of theirs in France told them about our place," Philip says proudly. "They made a special trip to Anadarko just so they could eat here."

Family and friends have also been tickled by the drugstore's restoration. "My grandchildren love getting back there behind the soda fountain and making all kinds of stuff," Philip says. "We're having fun. And as long as we continue to have fun, we'll keep doing it. My wife and I are both workaholics, but we love what we're doing."

In short, life has never been more exciting for the Meltons. Phyllis holds a copy of an old photograph that shows the soda

'I used to envision how I wanted this place to look,' Phyllis says. 'It looks just like the dreams I had.'

fountain's original glory. She isn't sure when it was taken. Or even who was in the picture. She just marvels at its beauty.

"I used to envision how I wanted this place to look," Phyllis says. "It looks just like the dreams I had." Phyllis gazes into the photograph, presses it against her chest, and smiles. She knows she's not dreaming anymore. 

Ron Jackson is a Daily Oklahoman staff writer and the author of Alamo Legacy: Alamo Descendants Remember the Alamo (Eakin Press, 1997). He lives in western Oklahoma with his wife, Jeannia, and their four children.

GETTING THERE

The Soda Fountain Eatery at Melton Drug, 108 West Broadway in Anadarko, is open 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday. Lunch is served 11 a.m.-3 p.m. weekdays; only soda fountain drinks and desserts are served on Saturday. The eatery serves nine different soups (\$1.75 for a cup, \$3.25 for a bowl) and eighteen kinds of sandwiches (\$3.95), and revolving lunch specials (\$5.25) include the popular Santa Fe Fried Chicken Salad made with black olives, red bell peppers, tortilla chips, and chili ranch dressing. All malts, milkshakes, floats, and freezes cost \$1.50, and the ten daily desserts cost \$1.50 each. The eatery also makes tiered wedding cakes for \$1 a serving and character cakes (think Star Wars or Barney) for \$1.50 a serving. The turnaround on cake orders is usually a day. (405) 247-3367.

The Frontier Drugstore Museum, located in the first drugstore in Oklahoma Territory at 214 West Oklahoma Street in Guthrie, was established in 1890 by Forest Lillie, a man who made the land run, dispensed medicine out of a tent, and then moved into the building that still stands today. The collection includes everything from old remedies and medical books used at the turn of the century to a no longer functioning soda fountain with counter. The museum is open 10-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. (405) 282-1895.

23rd Street Antiques Mall

*Voted Best Antique Shop
in Oklahoma City
Specializing in Quality Antiques
85 Dealers in 11,000 Square Feet*



4 blocks east of I-44 on NW 23rd
3023 NW 23rd St.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

(405) 947-3800

Oklahoma City Antiques

a collector's guide

*Spanning three centuries of
personally selected antiques
for the discriminating collector.*

**Jody Kerr
Antiques**



11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
and by appointment

Tuesday - Saturday

7908 N Western Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73114

(405) 842-5951



**Suzanne's
Antiques**

*A beautiful collection of
antique furniture and accessories*

Tuesday - Saturday
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
4209 N Western
Oklahoma City
(405) 524-1609

Diane Lee's, Inc.

- Professional Appraisals
- Estate/Business Liquidations
- Tag Sales
- Consignment Gallery

Monday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

7210 N. Western
Oklahoma City, OK 73116



(405) 843-1651 or (405) 842-7200

e-mail: dianelee@dianelee.com • web site: <http://www.dianelee.com>

Villa Antique Mall



Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays

3132 N May
Oklahoma City, OK

(405) 949-1185
tvlampboy@aol.com

60 dealers in 8,000 sq. ft. • Art Pottery • Silver
Art/Pressed/Cut Glass • Tools • Primitives • Toys • Victoriana
Slot Machines • '50s & Deco • Too much more to mention

American & European Antiques, Quality Furniture, Paintings, Clocks, Glass, Silver, Objets d'art, Collectibles

The Antique Center at Classen Circle

1433 NW Expressway,
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 842-0070



**Oklahoma City's
Two Finest Antique Malls**

May Antique Centre in the Historic May Theatre

1515 N May,
Oklahoma City, OK 73107
(405) 947-4447

You'll Love YUKON

*We're Famous
For Our Festivals and
Our Holidays Are Historic!*



*Czech Festival
October 2, 1999*

Yukon Chamber of Commerce
(405) 354-3567
www.yukoncc.com

For Great Fall Fun, Visit



Enjoy our entertaining attractions and
award-winning events throughout the fall.

Call today for your FREE guide
to Central Oklahoma's Frontier Country.

(800) 386-6552

or visit us at www.oktourism.com

OKLAHOMA
NATIVE AMERICA



You'll Love YUKON

*We're Famous
For Our Festivals and
Our Holidays Are Historic!*



*Celtic Nations Festival
Oct. 23 & 24, 1999*

Yukon Chamber of Commerce
(405) 354-3567
www.yukoncc.com

TEXAS LONGHORNS SHINE IN '99

The 1999 International Texas Longhorn
Association Convention and Show at
the "Heart of Oklahoma" Exposition
Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma

OCTOBER 28, 29 & 30

Come celebrate the last Texas Longhorn
Exposition of the 20th Century!

ITLA

P.O. Box 122988, Ft. Worth, TX 76121
(817) 244-8855

www.itla.com • E-mail: staff@itla.com



For Business or Leisure...

THUNDERBIRD LODGE



is the Place to Stay!

Located conveniently near the University of Oklahoma and downtown
Norman, this privately owned lodge offers a quiet atmosphere,
immaculate accommodations and a friendly, professional staff.

Free Continental Breakfast • Free HBO, Disney, CNN and ESPN
Free local calls • Heated Outdoor pool • Kitchenette suites
Microwaves and refrigerators available

1430 24th Ave. SW, Norman, OK 73072

For reservations or rates call toll free: (800) 432-2473

An exceptional value at an exceptional price

Hospitality... Stillwater Style

Stillwater, home of . . .

- Oklahoma State University
- Eskimo Joe's
- National Wrestling Hall of Fame
- Oklahoma Gardening Studio Grounds
- . . . and much MORE!

Contact us for your own
FREE copy
of the **NEW** Stillwater Visitors Guide
1-800-991-6717

www.come2stillwater.com

cristy@cowboy.net

Stillwater Convention &
Visitors Bureau



FORT RENO VISITORS CENTER PRESENTS

TOMBSTONE TALES

The Post Cemetery at Fort Reno will be host to
the "ghosts" of individuals interred between
1874 and 1947.

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 1999

PERFORMANCE TIMES:

Sat., Sept. 25: 10am, 1pm, 4pm

Sun., Sept. 26: 12pm, 3pm

ADMISSION FEE:

Adults/\$10.00

Youth (ages 6-15)/\$5.00

Children (5 yrs. & under)/free

PLEASE SPECIFY SHOW DATE AND
TIME WHEN MAILING IN ORDERS.
PLEASE CALL FOR EDUCATIONAL
DAY RATE AND SHOW TIME.



BEN CLARK



Fort Reno Visitors Center
7107 W. Cheyenne St.
El Reno, OK 73036
(405) 262-3987
Fax (405) 422-4917



EL RENO
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



From left, Linda Greenshields as Elva Ferguson and Verna Culver as Edna Ferber

Feathers, Frocks, and Politics

SEPTEMBER 25

When Pulitzer Prize winner Edna Ferber set out to find a strong, modern heroine for *Cimarron*, her landmark 1929 novel about the West, she simply walked downstairs. Elva Ferguson, widow of Oklahoma's sixth territorial governor, had lent the upper story of her Watonga home to the author for a short time in the early Twenties while sharing her family's history of pioneering and politics.

The women's friendship frames "The Fergusons: A Reenactment," a living history program which plays out the lives of Elva and her husband T.B. as idealistic homesteaders, newspaper editors, mudslinging politicians, and ultimately, novel-worthy Oklahomans. (Don't miss Representative Clay Pope as one time Republican leader Bill Grimes or Nancy Hursh as Clemme Hammett, Watonga's bottle-bashing version of Carrie Nation.)

After five years, the annual event also adds something new: women bedecked in feathered hats and woolen frocks will entertain the audience with customary Victorian dances like the Virginia Reel.

—Kelly Crow

"The Fergusons: A Reenactment" will be 2-4 p.m. September 25 at the T.B. Ferguson House, 519 North Weigle Street, in Watonga. Lemonade and cookies will be served on the lawn following the event. Donations accepted. (580) 623-5069.

BARTLESVILLE

ACROSS THE BOARD

Woolaroc Ranch Museum & Wildlife Preserve Oct 2: Cow Thieves & Outlaws Reunion at Clyde Lake. Oct 2,3: Fall Traders Encampment at Bison Lake, (918) 336-0307

Sept 17,18 Tulsa Regional Fly-in, Frank Phillips Field, (918) 622-8400

Sept 17-19 Indian Summer Festival, Community Center, (918) 337-2787

Oct 1,2 H.O.T. Summer Nights Swing, Downtown, (918) 336-8708

LAWTON

ACROSS THE BOARD

Sept 30-Oct 3 Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Cameron University Theatre, (580) 581-2478

Oct 1-3 Oktoberfest, Great Plains Coliseum, (580) 353-3082

Oct 1-3,8-10,15,16 South Pacific, Community Theater, (580) 355-1600

Oct 10 Cameron University Percussion Ensemble, Percussive Arts Society Museum, (580) 353-1455

MUSKOGEE

ACROSS THE BOARD

Arrowhead Mall 501 N Main. Oct 9-17: Art Guild Fall Festival. Oct 21-24: Strawberry Junction Arts & Crafts Show, (918) 683-4100

Civic Center 425 Boston St. Sept 10-12: Bedouin Shrine Circus, (918) 682-2761. Oct 14: Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Concert & Induction, (918) 683-2816. Oct 16: Green Country Jamboree, (918) 687-4221

The Five Civilized Tribes Museum Sept 1-6: Victoria McKinney Pottery Exhibit. Oct 10-Nov 7: Masters Art Show, (918) 683-1701

Three Forks Landing Sept 25: RAMCAT, (918) 684-6305. Sept 25: River Rumba Music Fest, (918) 684-6302

Oct 8-31 Haunted Castle, The Castle of Muskogee, (918) 683-1093

Oct 9 Westward Ho! Chuck Wagon Gathering, Fairgrounds, (918) 687-4406

Oct 9,10 Muskogee Air Show, Davis Field, (918) 682-1364

NORMAN

ACROSS THE BOARD

Cleveland County Fairgrounds Sept 9-11: 53rd Cleveland County Free Fair. Sept 25, Oct 16: Prime Sports Horse Show. (405) 348-9009. Oct 22: Celebration of Oklahoma Indian Language & Culture, (405) 447-6103. Oct 30: Intertribal Fall Gourd Dance, (405) 321-8070

Firehouse Arts Center 444 S Flood. Sept 18-Oct 17: Faculty Art Exhibit. Oct 23-Nov 21: Ann Hoelscher & Carolyn Faseler Collaborative Paintings. (405) 329-4523

Lake Thunderbird Oct 9: Little Axe Fall Festival, (405) 329-6153. Oct 29: Trick or Treat the Lake, (405) 321-4633

Tribes Gallery 308 E Main St. Sept 1-30: Doc Tate Nevaquaya. Oct 1-31: Cultural Items, (405) 329-4442

Sept 10-Oct 16 Inaugural Exhibition, MAINSITE Contemporary Art, (405) 292-8095

Sept 24-Oct 3 18th Annual City Arts Week, Citywide, (405) 360-1162

Oct 3 Art in the Park, Andrews Park, (405) 360-1162

OKLAHOMA CITY

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Nat'l Cowboy Hall of Fame 1700 NE 63rd St. Sept 10-12: American Cowboy Gallery & Western Town Grand Opening. Sept 10-Nov 21: Traditional Cowboy Crafts. Sept 13-Dec 10: Children's Education Programs. Sept 25-Dec 31: Ralph Russell Doubleday: Rodeo's First Professional Photographer. (405) 478-2250

The Oklahoma Historical Society Presents

Collage 2000

An Oklahoma Vision of the Millennium Preserved in Images and Words

What: A Collage Competition/Exhibition!

The collage of images must be on premium quality 4' x 6' 3/4" plywood finished for outdoor display. An essay of 2,000 words or less should accompany each collage. The collages will be judged and awards given including **\$2,000 for the Grand Champion, and six \$1,000 awards.**

Who: Open to submissions by any person, group, school or business in the state of Oklahoma.

When: Completed works will be accepted from October 15-17, and displayed through a date to be announced in December.

Where: There will be local displays as well as one major exhibition for the state at sites to be announced.

How: Making a collage is easy, but takes some time to do well. To see examples of large collages visit any of the Hideaway restaurants. There you will find detailed instructions.

Why: This can be a historic artistic event for our state. Like community quilting, creation of the collages will be an educational, reflective, and bonding experience for the participants.

The collages will be scrapbooks of our lives, visible and accessible time capsules of this historic period enduring far beyond the exhibition, as the art will be displayed around the state for years

to come. Collage 2000 holds the possibility of being one of the premier events in the United States celebrating and commemorating the new millennium.

Registration

To participate, submit the following information as soon as possible:

Group name, address, city, state, zip, contact person, phone day / night, email address (if you've got one). Please provide a brief statement (50 words or less) of who you are, why you want to do a collage, and what your concept is.

Mail To: Collage 2000
c/o The Hideaway
6616 N. Western Ave
OKC, OK 73116

The HIDEAWAY
Famous Pizza Since 1957



Southwestern Bell
friendly. neighborhood. global.™



Ciao Y'all!

Since 1925, Pete's Place of Krebs—Oklahoma's Little Italy—has delighted diners with fresh, family-style Italian Cuisine served in unselfish portions. Come see why Pete's Place has been an Oklahoma landmark for three generations.

- Microbrewery
- Perfect for tour groups
- Banquet facilities for up to 250



Open Mon-Sat 4pm • Sunday Noon
(918) 423-2042 • Fax (918) 423-7859



Old Germany Restaurant

Come celebrate Oktoberfest at Old Germany Restaurant September 9 - 11. Join in on the excitement of activities including polka dancing, chicken dancing, dance contests, and childrens' activities.

See the Mercedes, Porsche, and BMW car show outside the fest tent Saturday afternoon.

Thursday, Sept. 9 5:00 to 11:00 pm
Friday, Sept. 10 4:00 to 11:30 pm
Saturday, Sept. 11 2:00 to 11:30 pm

15920 SE 29th St, Choctaw, OK
(405) 390-8647
www.oldgermany.com



Oklahoma's Largest Show of Arts, Crafts, Antiques, Collectibles

At *An Affair of the Heart*, you will be charmed into a wonderful world of heirlooms — past and future. More than 1,000 gifted artisans gather to showcase a myriad of quality art including stained glass, folk art, handcrafted jewelry, and seasonal items. Precious antiques from the quaint to the curious will surprise and delight!

October 22, 23 & 24
Oklahoma City Fairgrounds
NW 10th at May Avenue

For show information, call
(800) 755-5488 or (405) 632-2652
www.affairoftheheart.com



Hammett House

With nearly 30 years of fine dining, Hammett House has achieved an unmatched level of excellence. "Pamper-fried chicken," country-fried steaks, lamb and turkey fries and 14 varieties of delicious pies baked daily top our menu. A family oriented, made-from-scratch restaurant where no reservations are necessary.



1616 W. Will Rogers Blvd.,
Claremore, OK 74017
(918) 341-7333



Marland Estate Mansion Ponca City, Oklahoma

Now Open — Lydie's Cottage & Artist Studio

... opening October 2nd, 1999, three new exhibits

- Bryant Baker Studio (*Sculptor of Pioneer Woman*)
- John Duncan Forsyth Room
- Marland Family History



Ponca City Visitor Information Center
(800) 475-4400 • www.poncacitynews.com/tourism
Marland Estate Mansion • 901 Monument Rd. • Ponca City, Oklahoma

Free Advertiser Information

OKLAHOMA TODAY

THE MAGAZINE OF OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Today
Reader Service Department
PO Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152

The *Oklahoma Today* advertisers listed on this page would like to tell you more about their products and services. To receive this free information, circle the advertiser number(s) below, fill in your name and address, and mail this coupon to us at the address listed above.

☐ Check here to receive free information from all of the advertisers.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

☐ Please enter a one-year subscription to *Oklahoma Today*, with the special Year in Review issue, in my name and bill me for \$16.95.

SO99

Find out more about attractions, lodging, shopping, dining, and special events from *Oklahoma Today* advertisers. It's easy!

1. Pull out the attached Reader Response Card or use the form on this page.
2. Circle the numbers that correspond with the advertisers you want to find out about.
3. Drop the postage-paid card in the mail.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Admiral Flea Market | 40 Jody Kerr Antiques |
| 2 Affair of the Heart | 41 Keepsake Candles |
| 3 Air Show Oklahoma | 42 Lake Pine Retreat |
| 4 The Antique Center | 43 MainSite Contemporary Art |
| 5 Beavers Bend Folk Festival and Craft Show | 44 McBirney Mansion |
| 6 Beavers Bend Lakeview Lodge | 45 Muskogee Convention and Tourism |
| 7 Best Western | 46 Muskogee Speedway |
| 8 Castle of Muskogee | 47 North May Antique Centre |
| 9 Charles Wesley Motor Lodge | 48 OG&E |
| 10 Chickasaw Nation | 49 Oklahoma Indian Art Gallery |
| 11 City of Yukon | 50 Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame |
| 12 Creek Nation Muskogee Bingo | 51 Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department |
| 13 Crystal Christmas | 52 Oklahoma Turnpike Authority |
| 14 Doubletree Hotel-Warren Place | 53 Oklahoma Natural Gas |
| 15 Diane Lee's, Inc. | 54 Old Germany Restaurant |
| 16 Edmond Convention & Visitors Bureau | 55 OSU Athletic Department |
| 17 El Reno Chamber of Commerce | 56 Peckerwood Knob Cabins |
| 18 El Reno Visitors and Tourism | 57 Pete's Place Restaurant |
| 19 Enid Convention and Visitors Bureau | 58 Phillips Petroleum Co. |
| 20 Fayetteville, AR Tourism | 59 Ponca City Tourism |
| 21 Five Civilized Tribes Museum | 60 PSO |
| 22 Flavors Restaurant | 61 Red Carpet Country |
| 23 Frontier Country Marketing Association | 62 River Rumba |
| 24 Ft. Reno Visitors Center | 63 Seminole Nation Museum |
| 25 Gilcrease Museum | 64 Shafers Honey Glazed Ham Company |
| 26 Global Oklahoma | 65 Shawnee Convention & Visitors Bureau |
| 27 Grand Lake Association | 66 Southwestern Bell Wireless |
| 28 Grand River Dam Authority | 67 Stillwater Convention and Visitors Bureau |
| 29 Greater Tulsa Antiques Show | 68 Suzanne's Antiques |
| 30 Great Plains Antique Show and Sale | 69 Ted's Pipe Shoppe |
| 31 Guymon Convention & Tourism | 70 Thunderbird Lodge |
| 32 Hammett House Restaurant | 71 Tree Top View Cabins |
| 33 Hideaway Pizza | 72 Tulsa Zoo Friends |
| 34 Hillbilly Hideaway | 73 Twenty-Third Street Antique Mall |
| 35 Hochatown Junction Resort | 74 University Health Partners |
| 36 Indian Territory Texas Longhorn Assoc. | 75 Villa Antique Mall |
| 37 Inter-tribal Designs | 76 Watonga Cheese Festival |
| 38 Jasmine Moran Children's Museum | 77 Whip-Poor-Will Resort |
| 39 Jeff McCormick, DDS | |

For advertising information call 800-777-1793.

CALENDAR

ON THE STAGE

Rose State College Performing Arts Theater
6420 SE 15th St. Sept 15: Squatty & the Bod-ies. Sept 17, 18: Misha Dichter. Sept 24: Gallagher. Sept 29: Steve McLinn. Oct 15, 16: Hooray for Hollywood. Oct 29, 30: Philippe Entremont, (405) 733-7960
Oct 7-22 Cinderella, City Arts Center, (405) 951-0000
Oct 8, 10 Strike a Match, Petree Recital Hall, OCU, (800) 633-7242

RODEO & HORSE EVENTS

State Fairgrounds I-40 & 10th St. Oct 10-17: Grand Nat'l Morgan Horse Show. Oct 24-31: U.S. Team Roping Championships, (405) 297-8938

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

State Fairgrounds Sept 17-Oct 3: State Fair of Oklahoma. Oct 22-24: An Affair of the Heart, (405) 948-6700
Sept 3-6 Arts Festival Oklahoma, OKC Community College, (405) 682-7536
Oct 9 Global Oklahoma: A Festival of Cultures, Rose State College, Midwest City, (405) 736-0313

SPECIAL EVENTS

Frontier City 11501 NE Expressway. Sept 24-Oct 10: Oktoberfest. Oct 15-31: Hallowscream. (405) 478-2412
Myriad Botanical Gardens Reno & Robinson. Sept 18: Herbal Explosion Seminar. Oct 5: Crystal Bridge Bug Out. Oct 23: Autumn Adventures. (405) 297-3995
Myriad Convention Center 1 Myriad Gardens. Sept 10-12: Continental Antique Show. Oct 2: Metro Firefighters Circus. Oct 3: WCW Wrestling. Oct 9, 10: Star Trek Convention. (405) 297-3300
Omniplex 2100 NE 52nd St. Sept 1-20: Bed & Bath Gardens. Sept 1-20: Drought Tolerant Plants. Sept 1-20: Nectar Garden for Butterflies. Sept 1-20: Peppers Hot & Sweet. Sept 1-26: A Show of Hands. Sept 1-Oct 25: Scented Delights for the Nose. Sept 1-Nov 21: The Explorers. Sept 1-Nov 21: Stardust. Oct 1-31: Bats!. (405) 602-6664
Overholser Mansion 405 NW 15th St. Oct 16, 17: Heritage Hills Historic Homes Tour. Oct 29, 30: Ghost Stories, (405) 528-8485
Sept 11 Septemberfest, Governor's Mansion, (405) 523-4206
Oct 1 Broadway Ball, Penn & Grand, (405) 524-9312
Oct 30 Kitchen Tour, Nichols Hills, (405) 842-1033

TULSA

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Philbrook Museum of Art 2727 S Rockford Rd. Sept 12-Nov 7: Green Woods & Crystal Wa-

ters: The American Landscape Tradition. Sept 19-Jan 2: The Artist's Book: The Book as Work of Art. (918) 749-7941

Sept 1-Nov 7 Down from the Shimmering Sky: Masks of the Northwest Coast, Gilcrease Museum, (918) 596-2700

Sept 5-Nov 14 Chinese Embroidery, Int'l Linen Registry Foundation Needle Art Museum, (918) 622-5223

ON THE STAGE

Heller Theatre 5328 S Wheeling. Sept 10: Laughing Matter Improv—Labor of Love. Sept 23-Oct 2: Dallas to Laguardia. Oct 14-23: Fortinbras. Oct 28: Teen Laughing Improv. Oct 29: Fright Night. (918) 746-5065

Tulsa Performing Arts Center 110 E 2nd St. Sept 5: Symphony at Sunset. Sept 7-19: Disney's Beauty & the Beast. Sept 10-19: You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. Sept 25: Masterworks: John Browning, Piano. Sept 27: Armchair Traveler. Oct 1, 2: Anna Karenina. Oct 2: Sabella. Oct 3: Tulsa Ballet. Oct 7: Coffee Classics I, Barronson Center. Oct 8, 9: Natalie McMaster. Oct 10: The Velveteen Rabbit. Oct 16, 22, 24: Tulsa Opera. Oct 22-24, 26-30: Scotland Road. Oct 29, 30: Pops: Sound & Sorcery. (918) 596-7122

University of Tulsa 600 S College. Sept 26: Tulsa University Orchestra Concert. Oct 7-16: Theater Production of Grease. (918) 631-2000
Sept 17-25 The Nerd, Cain's Ballroom, (918) 596-7122

RODEO & HORSE EVENTS

Expo Square 21st & Pittsburgh. Sept 5: Region 9 Arabian Hunter/Jumper Championship. Sept 18: Green Country Fox Trotting & Open Gaited Horse Show. Sept 25, 26: Arabian Horse Show. Oct 1-3: PRCA Rodeo. (918) 744-1113

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Sept 9-11 Bluegrass & Chili Festival, Downtown, (918) 583-2617
Sept 30-Oct 10 Tulsa State Fair, Expo Square, (918) 744-1113
Oct 21-24 Oktoberfest, River West Festival Park, (918) 596-2005

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sept 10-12 Greater Tulsa Antique Show, Expo Square, (918) 682-7420
Sept 18, 19 Oklahoma Scottish Games & Gathering, Chandler Park, (918) 499-2585
Oct 1-3 21st Annual Country Bazaar, 109 S Louisville, (918) 299-1012

RUNS, RIDES, & WALKS

Oct 2 Run to Read 8K Race & One Mile Fun Run, Central Library, (918) 596-7977

OUT & ABOUT

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Sept 1-Oct 31 Showmanship & Wild West Exhibit, Oklahoma Territorial Museum/Carnegie Library, Guthrie, (405) 282-1889
Sept 5 Native American Art Exhibit, Sequoyah's Cabin, Sallisaw, (918) 775-2413
Oct 1-April 1 Craftsmen East & West, Cherokee Museum Heritage Center, Tahlequah, (918) 456-6007

ON THE STAGE

Coleman Theatre Miami. Sept 9-12: Lil' Abner. Sept 18: Gold Rush Days: Silent Movie. (918) 540-2425
Sept 4, 11, 18, 25 Music in the Park, Chickasaw Nat'l Recreation Area, Sulphur, (580) 622-3161
Sept 9-11 Dancing by the Lake, Dripping Springs State Park, Okmulgee, (918) 756-5971
Sept 11, 12 Former Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys Reunion, Constantine Theatre & Elks Lodge, Pawhuska, (918) 287-2459
Sept 24, 25 Melodrama & Olío, Boomtown Theatre, Drumright, (918) 352-2236
Oct 22-30 Haunting of Hill House, Community Theatre, Sapulpa, (580) 227-2169

INDIAN EVENTS

Cherokee Museum Heritage Center Tahlequah. Sept 4-6: Cherokee Nat'l Holiday & Arts and Crafts Market. Oct 21, 22: Children's Fall Cherokee Heritage Days. (918) 456-6007
Sept 3-6 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival, Tribal Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma, (918) 569-4465
Sept 4-6 Cheyenne & Arapaho Labor Day Powwow, Fairgrounds, Colony, (405) 521-3841
Sept 10-12 Seminole Nation Days, Mekusukye Mission Grounds, Seminole, (405) 257-6287
Sept 10-12 Wyandotte Powwow, Tribal Powwow Grounds, Wyandotte, (918) 678-2297
Sept 17-19 Eastern Shawnee Tribal Powwow, West Seneca Tribal Complex, Seneca, (918) 666-2435
Sept 24, 25 Standing Bear Powwow, Standing Bear Native American Memorial Park, Ponca City, (580) 762-1514
Sept 25-Oct 3 Chickasaw Festival, Citywide, Tishomingo, (580) 371-9901
Oct 16 Choctaw Cultural Festival, Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson, (580) 873-2634

RODEO & HORSE EVENTS

Sept 4 Mayes County Horse Show, Fairgrounds, Pryor, (918) 825-3241
Sept 4-6 Northwest Oklahoma Jr. Rodeo Finals, Fairgrounds, Woodward, (580) 256-9885
Sept 4-6 PRCA Rodeo of Champions, Ackley Park Rodeo Arena, Elk City, (580) 243-2424
Sept 5, 6 Living Legends Rodeo, Rodeo Arena, Henryetta, (918) 652-3331



McBirney Mansion

...For the discriminating traveler

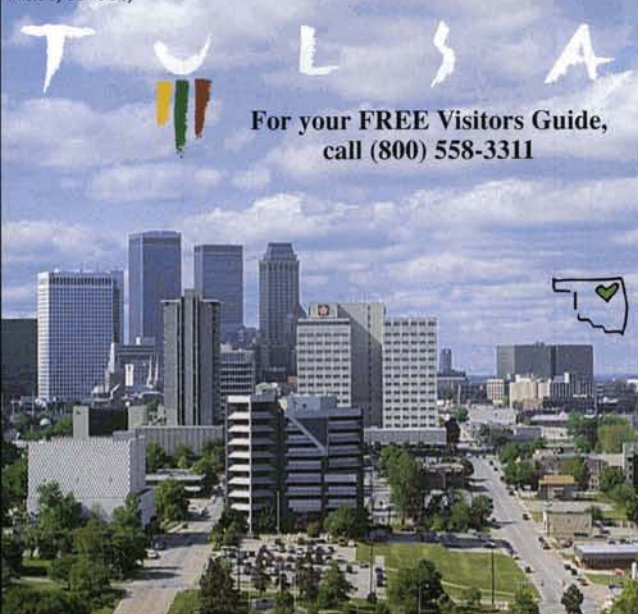
Make one of Oklahoma's most treasured historic dwellings your Tulsa headquarters for business or pleasure travel.

Enjoy afternoon refreshments, a luxurious guest room and a hearty American breakfast all within easy access to Tulsa's downtown business district, Utica Square shopping, and Philbrook and Gilcrease Museums.



1414 S. Galveston, Tulsa, OK 74127
(918) 585-3234 • Fax (918) 585-9377

Photo by Don Sibley



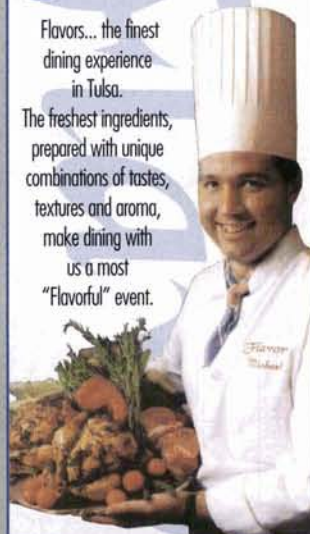
For your FREE Visitors Guide,
call (800) 558-3311

Convention and Visitors Bureau
616 S. Boston, Suite 100, Tulsa, OK 74119-1298
www.tourism.tulsachamber.com

MICHAEL FUSCO'S Flavors

Flavors... the finest
dining experience
in Tulsa.

The freshest ingredients,
prepared with unique
combinations of tastes,
textures and aroma,
make dining with
us a most
"Flavorful" event.



6104 East 71st Street
TULSA
(918) 492-7767

TONI'S

Flowers & Gifts

Unique Ideas
3525 South Harvard • (918) 742-9027

Admiral Flea Market

Open
Friday - Sunday

(918) 834-9259

9401 E. Admiral
Tulsa, OK



Tulsa's Largest Indoor-Outdoor Market
A Bargain Hunter's Paradise - Over 300 Booths

Find your treasure at Admiral Flea
Tree-shaded outside & air-cooled inside



Families Welcome

Destination: Tulsa Zoo

Come see the African
Savannah Exhibit.

Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(918) 669-6600

www.tulsazoo.org



Oklahoma's # 1 Antiques Show

34th Year

Quality antiques from 50 of the
finest dealers from 13 states.
Items from \$20 to \$50,000.

Sept 10, 11 & 12
(Fri 11-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 12-5)
Expo Square Fairgrounds,
Exchange Bldg # 1
Yale & 21st St.
(888) 682-7420



Ted's Pipe Shoppe, Ltd.

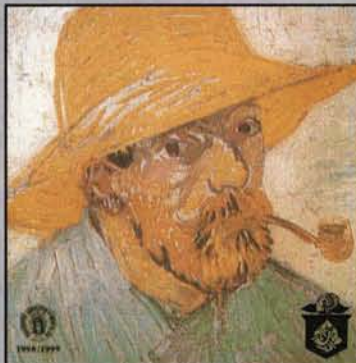
"Fine Cigars at Fair Prices"

Oklahoma's Oldest Pipe Shop
with the widest selection

Mail orders welcome.

Call for free catalog.

2002 Utica Square, Tulsa 74114
(918) 742-4996 • (800) 886-4996
www.tedspipeshop.com



DENTAL CARE

Fourteen Years Dental
Implant Experience

Ten Years Teaching:
Crown, Bridge, and
Restorative Dentistry



**Jeffrey T.
McCormick DDS**

Charter Commons Office Park
304 NW 13th St.
Suite 100
OKC, OK 73103
405-232-0303

COMPREHENSIVE

PARTIAL * DENTURE
EMERGENCY * BRIDGE

IMPLANT * FILING
ROOT CANAL * CROWN

CLASSIFIEDS

MISCELLANEOUS

AMERICA'S CLASSIFIEDS

Not a loan. Not bankruptcy. Lower payments and interest instantly. Private. Call Amerix now. (800) 570-3021 (code 4252).

FINANCIAL OPTIONS

Purchasing Owner-Financed mortgages. Call for a free quote. Chickasha, OK (800) 819-2430.

JEFF MCCORMICK, DDS

Fourteen years dental implant services. Ten years teaching. Crown, bridge, and restorative dentistry. OKC, OK (405) 232-0303.

MUSEUMS & SHOPS

INTER-TRIBAL DESIGNS

Native American-made jewelry. Concho belts, Kachina's, one-of-a-kind Christmas ornaments. OKC, OK (405) 943-7935.

JASMIN MORAN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Exhibits and outdoor play area. Great hands-on fun! Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Seminole, OK (405) 382-0950.

CALENDAR

Sept 17,18 Monster-Bull Bull Riding Tour, Will Rogers Downs, Claremore, (918) 343-5900

Oct 1,2 Western Days & Rodeo, Downtown & Paul Burch Arena, Grandfield, (580) 335-2126

Oct 2,3 George Hammons Memorial Bulldogging & Barbecue, Rodeo Arena, Finley, (580) 298-2488

Oct 9 Cowboy Trade Day, Will Rogers Round-up Club, Claremore, (918) 341-6985

Oct 29,30 Nat'l Finals Steer Roping, Lazy E Arena, Guthrie, (405) 282-7433

Reno, (405) 262-8888

Oct 9,10 Celebration of Children Festival, Hafer Park, Edmond, (405) 359-4630

Oct 9,10 Grapes of Wrath Festival, Citywide, Sallisaw, (918) 775-2558

Oct 15,16 Great West Chili Fest, Sixth and Morton Streets, Okmulgee, (918) 756-6172

Oct 23,24 Celtic Nations Festival, Kirkpatrick Family Farm, Yukon, (405) 350-0425

SPECIAL EVENTS

Lake Arcadia Edmond. Sept 25: Feast & Fables. Oct 21-23,28-30: Agony at Arcadia Lake, (405) 359-4573

Texas County Fairgrounds Guymon. Sept 11,12: Ambucs Gun, Coin, & Antique Show. Sept 21-25: Panhandle Exposition & Texas County Free Fair. Sept 25: Antique Tractor Pull. Oct 2: Bits & Pieces Quilt Show & Auction. Oct 4,5: Oil & Gas Golf Tourney, (580) 338-5446

Sept 3-6 Labor Day Celebration, Lake Texoma State Park & Resort, Kingston, (580) 564-2311

Sept 6 Labor Day Celebration Open House, Sod House Museum, Aline, (580) 463-2441

Sept 9-Oct 9 Bugling Elk Tours, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Indianola, (580) 429-3222

Sept 10-12 Mountain Boomer Rock Ranch Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, & Fossil Extravaganza, SH 48, Clarita, (580) 428-3116

Sept 11 Amish Auction & Craft/Antique Sale, Rural Farm, Clarita, (580) 428-3458

Sept 11 DAM J.A.M., Whitaker Park, Pryor, (918) 825-0157

Sept 11-19 Historic Textiles Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee, (918) 762-2513

Sept 16-18 Cherokee Strip Land Run Celebration, Citywide & Museum of the Cherokee Strip, Enid, (580) 237-1907

Sept 17,18 Cherokee Strip Chili Cook-off & Bar-B-Q Championship, Wentz Campground, Ponca City, (580) 762-1500

Sept 18 Cherokee Strip Old Settlers Celebration, Citywide, Wakita, (580) 594-2250

Sept 18 Elk City Flying Aces Fly-in, Municipal Airport, Elk City, (580) 225-2253

Sept 18 Fall Harvest Garden Tour, Blue Jay Gardens Herb Farm, Haskell, (918) 482-3465

Sept 18 Outlaw Days Ambush, Downtown, Marlow, (580) 658-2212

Sept 19 Cherokee Strip Celebration Open House & Tea, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry, (580) 336-2405

Sept 19 The Witty World of Will Rogers & Hamburger Cookout, Constantine Theatre, Pawhuska, (918) 287-1992

Sept 23 Southwest Oklahoma Senior Games, Simmons Center, Duncan, (580) 252-2900

Sept 24-26 Old-Time Threshing Bee, Major County Historical Society, Fairview, (580) 227-2265

Sept 25 Hook'n Cook-off, City Park, Langley, (918) 782-3214

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Sept 2-5 Labor Day Festival & Country Fest, River City Park, Sand Springs, (918) 246-2561

Sept 3-5 Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival, Down Home Blues Club, Rentiesville, (918) 473-2411

Sept 6 Watermelon Festival, Around the Square, Cleo Springs, (580) 438-2486

Sept 9-11 OktoberFest, Old Germany Restaurant, Choctaw, (405) 390-8647

Sept 11 Canna Festival, Carnegie Park, Carnegie, (580) 654-2121

Sept 11 Okrafest, Downtown, Checotah, (918) 473-4178

Sept 11 World's Largest Calf Fry Festival, Craig County Fairgrounds, Vinita, (918) 256-713

Sept 17,18 Designs of Autumn Fall Festival, Main Street, Miami, (918) 542-4481

Sept 17-19 Fall Festival of the Arts, Civic Center, Elk City, (580) 225-0207

Sept 17-19 South Canadian River Festival, Citywide, Taloga, (580) 328-5441

Sept 18 Old Settlers Harvest Fest, Main Street, Perkins, (405) 547-2131

Sept 18 Pioneer Day Festival, Downtown, Skiatook, (918) 396-3702

Sept 26 Pelican Festival, Grand Lake o' the Cherokees, Grove, (918) 786-2289

Sept 30-Oct 2 Oklahoma Int'l Bluegrass Festival, Downtown, Guthrie, (405) 282-4446

Oct 2 Czech Festival, Downtown, Yukon, (405) 354-7573

Oct 2,3 Cavanal Fall Festival, LeFlore County Fairgrounds, Poteau, (918) 647-9178

Oct 2,3 Oktoberfest, Marland Mansion, Ponca City, (580) 767-0420

Oct 8,9 Watonga Cheese Festival, Downtown/Fairgrounds, Watonga, (800) 306-0018

Oct 8-10 Heritage Festival, Downtown, Shattuck, (580) 938-2818

Oct 9 Festival in the Park, Memorial Park, Cushing, (918) 225-7525

Oct 9 GooberFest, Downtown, Colony, (405) 521-3841

Oct 9 Historical Fall Farm Fest, Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm, Keota, (918) 966-3396

Oct 9 Oktoberfest, Logan County Fairgrounds, Guthrie, (405) 282-7842

Oct 9 Pumpkin Festival, Downtown, Cordell, (580) 832-3538

Oct 9 Tossed Salad Festival, Downtown, El

Nothing plain about it ENID—Plain Eventful

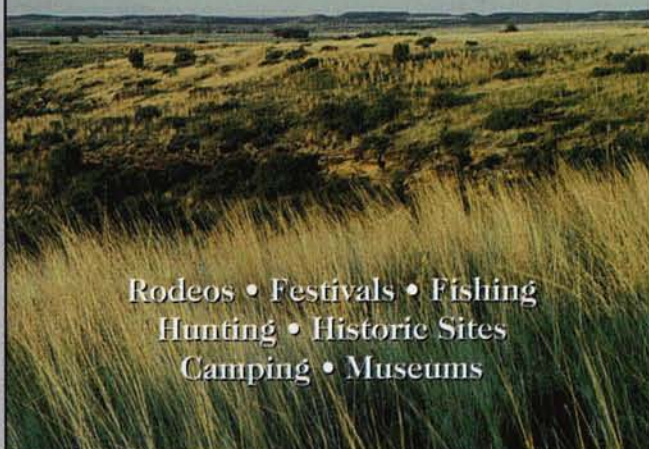
September 9-11
Cherokee Strip Stampede PRCA Rodeo
September 16-18
Cherokee Strip Days Celebration
November 26 – January 1, 2000
Enid Lights Up the Plains

888-229-2443



Red Carpet Country

Wall-To-Wall Hospitality

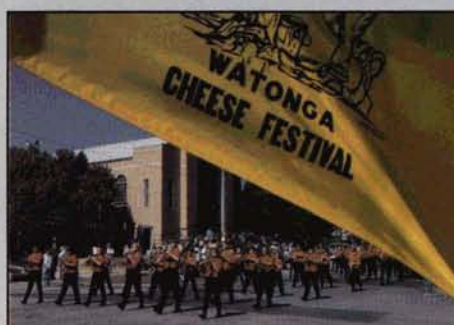


Rodeos • Festivals • Fishing
Hunting • Historic Sites
Camping • Museums

Drawer B, Alva, OK 73717
(800) 447-2698
www.redcarpetcountry.com



OKLAHOMA
NATIVE
AMERICA



Watonga Cheese Festival

Cheese Food Contest,
Arts & Crafts, Historical
Recreations, Great Rat
Race, Parade, Dance
& Amusements

October 8 & 9, 1999
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

2-Day pass - \$2
Under 12 - Free

For more information call (800) 306-0018

CRYSTAL CHRISTMAS 1999



Over 2 million lights! • Lighted bridges • Walking tours • Carriage rides
Day after Thanksgiving - January 1

Woodward, Oklahoma • For more information call (800) 364-5352.

You're Gonna Love It Out Here



Pioneer Day Open Rodeo
Welcome Home Fiesta
Texas County Free Fair
Bits & Pieces Quilt Show
Antique Tractor Pull
Rocktober Fest: Rock Concert
Gas & Oil Chili Cookoff
Pumpkin Patch Crafts Festival
Pheasant Season
Festival of Lights: Christmas Festivities
Trout Season at Thompson Park
Doc Gardner College Rodeo
Wade Hayes in Concert
Pioneer Day PRCA Rodeo
Pioneer Day Celebration
Western Arts & Crafts Show
NW Oklahoma Jr. Rodeo

August 20-21, 1999
September 12, 1999
September 12-15, 1999
September 25, 1999
September 26, 1999
October 2, 1999
October 4, 1999
November 6-7, 1999
December 1-January 1
December 4, 1999
January 1-April 30, 2000
Early April 2000
April 29, 2000
May 4-7, 2000
May 6, 2000
May 5-6, 2000
Mid-June, 2000



GUYMON
OKLAHOMA
AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

www.guymonok.com

For more information contact Guymon Convention and Tourism,
219 NW 4th St., Guymon, OK 73942. Or call (580) 338-5838.

I Have Heard of a Land

I have heard of a land
Where the earth is red with promises
Where the redbud trees catch the light
And throw it in a game of sunbeams and shadow
Back and forth to the cottonwood trees

I have heard of a land
Where the cottonwood trees are innocent
Where the coyote's call is a lullaby at night
And the land runs on forever
And a woman can plant her crop and

walk all day and never come to the end of it

—Joyce Carol Thomas

- Sept 25,26 Kiamichi Area Rollin' Relics Rod Run**, Fort Towson, (580) 873-2634
- Sept 25,26 Tombstone Tales**, Fort Reno Cemetery, El Reno, (405) 262-1188
- Sept 26-Oct 2 Mayes County Art Contest & Exhibit**, Graham Community Building, Pryor, (918) 825-3137
- Sept 30 Taste of Ardmore**, Main Street, Ardmore, (580) 226-6246
- Sept 30-Oct 3 Emil Lenders Memorial Artist Weekend**, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee, (918) 762-2513
- Oct 1,2 Autumn Celebration & Classic Car Show**, Caddo County Courthouse Lawn, Anadarko, (405) 247-6651
- Oct 1,2 Quilt Show**, Mayes County Fairgrounds, Pryor, (918) 825-3241
- Oct 1-3 Heritage Days**, Fountainhead State Park, Checotah, (918) 689-4607
- Oct 2 EXPO '99**, Mid-America Industrial Park, Pryor, (918) 825-3500
- Oct 2 Old-Timers Heritage Day & Kiamichi Quilt Guild Show**, Building Foundation, McAlester, (918) 423-2932
- Oct 3 Pioneer Days**, City Park, Cheyenne, (580) 497-3318
- Oct 4 Art in the Park**, Flower Park, Sulphur, (580) 622-2824
- Oct 9 ExCRAFTSaganza**, Fair Building, Antlers, (580) 298-5266

- Oct 9 Farmers' Market**, Route 66, Foyil, (918) 341-1271
- Oct 9 Quilt Show**, Peter Conser House, Heavener, (918) 653-2493
- Oct 9,10 Garland Arts & Crafts Show**, Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center, Shawnee, (405) 399-2511
- Oct 9-30 Halloween Train of Terror**, Beavers Bend Resort Park, Broken Bow, (580) 494-6613
- Oct 14-31 Trail of Fear**, Allen Ranch, Bixby, (918) 366-3010
- Oct 14-31 Scary Prairie Hayrides**, Read Ranch, Chandler, (405) 258-2999
- Oct 15,16 Heritage Days**, City Hall, Caddo, (580) 367-2798
- Oct 15-17 Billings Centennial**, Main Street, Billings, (580) 725-3424
- Oct 15-17 Fall-a-Days**, County Fairgrounds, Woodward, (580) 256-4101
- Oct 15-Nov 15 Fall Foliage**, Red Rock Canyon State Park, Hinton, (405) 542-6344
- Oct 16-31 Creepy Creek Hayride**, Turner Falls Park, Davis, (580) 369-2402
- Oct 23 Pumpkin Patch Arts & Crafts Show**, Texoma State Park, Kingston, (580) 564-2311
- Oct 28-30 Ghost Stories**, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant, (580) 924-6502
- Oct 28-30 Jerry Kirk Memorial Fiddlers Convention**, Holiday Inn, Elk City, (580) 225-1391
- Oct 29,30 Ghost Stories**, Murrell Home, Park Hill, (918) 456-2751
- Oct 29-31 Halloween Celebration**, Lake Murray Resort, Ardmore, (800) 257-0322
- Oct 30 Boo-ha-ha Parade**, Downtown & Coleman Theatre, Miami, (918) 540-2425
- Oct 30 Halloween Festivities**, Roman Nose Resort Park, Watonga, (800) 892-8690
- Oct 30 Haunted Trail**, Greenleaf State Park, Braggs, (918) 487-5196
- Oct 30 Haunted Trail**, Tenkiller State Park, Vian, (918) 489-5641

RUNS, RIDES, & WALKS

- Sept 4-6 Labor Day Pleasure Ride**, Robbers Cave State Park, Wilburton, (405) 382-1159
- Sept 6 Warriors Challenge Run & Women's Distance Festival**, Lake Pawnee, Pawnee (918) 762-2493
- Sept 15-19 Cherokee Strip Trail Ride**, Mooreland, (580) 697-3380
- Sept 18 Speed to Steed Bicycle Race**, Snyder High School, Mountain Park, (580) 569-2933
- Sept 23, 24 Autumnal Equinox Night & Day Walks**, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro, (918) 962-2062
- Sept 25 Sacred Heart Bicycle Race/Tour**, St. Gregory's University, Shawnee, (405) 878-5290
- Sept 25,26 Make A Wish Trail Ride**, Okmulgee State Park, Okmulgee, (918) 756-5971
- Oct 2 5K Stampede Run/Walk**, Simmons Center, Duncan, (580) 252-2900
- Oct 2 Hills of Oklahoma Bicycle Tour**, Traver-

- tine Nature Center, Sulphur, (580) 622-2824
- Oct 2 Outhouse Race Day**, Main Street, Beggs, (918) 267-4530
- Oct 15-Nov 15 Fall Foliage Walks**, Beavers Bend Resort Park, Broken Bow, (580) 494-6300
- Oct 22,23 Elephant Rock's Haunted Hollow**, Elephant Rock Nature Park, Tahlequah, (918) 456-4215
- Oct 23-31 Fall Foliage Walk**, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Indianoma, (580) 429-3222

LIVING HISTORY

- Sept 1-Dec 15 A Day at Rose Hill School**, Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry, (580) 336-2405
- Sept 11 Civil War Candlelight Tour**, Fort Gibson, (918) 478-4088
- Oct 2 Cavalry Day**, Fort Supply, (580) 256-7411
- Oct 2 Fall Encampment**, Fort Gibson, (918) 478-4088

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

- Sept 13-17 Oil Landscape & Still Life Workshop**, Simmons Center, Duncan, (580) 255-5556
- Sept 18 Tatting Workshop**, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher, (405) 375-5176
- Oct 8,9 Astronomy Workshop for Teachers & Star Party**, Tenkiller State Park, Vian, (918) 489-5641

Dates and times are subject to change; please confirm before attending any event. The calendar is a free service published on a space-available basis. To be considered, please mail a concise notice of the event (a separate page for each event) that includes date, time, place, address, admission prices, and both a contact telephone number and a phone number that can be published. Notices must arrive at Oklahoma Today three calendar months prior to publication (i.e. January-February events must arrive by October 1). Send to: Entertainment Calendar, Oklahoma Today, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152 or fax: (405) 522-4588. Address electronic mail to calendar@oklahomatoday.com. Questions? Call (405) 521-2496; we cannot, however, take listings over the telephone.

Oklahoma Today (ISSN 0030-1892) is published seven times a year: in January, March, May, July, September, and November by the State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, 15 N. Robinson, Suite 100, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73102/73152, (405) 521-2496 or (800) 777-1793. Subscription prices: \$16.95 per year in U.S.; \$26.95 per year outside U.S. U.S. copyright © 1999 by Oklahoma Today. Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK, and additional entry offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Oklahoma Today Circulation, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152.

BEAVERS BEND FOLK FESTIVAL & CRAFT SHOW

TURN OF THE CENTURY
DEMONSTRATIONS
FOLK MUSIC
FALL FOLIAGE
EXHIBITS
FOOD BOOTHS

NOVEMBER 12-14,
1999

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL THE
FOREST HERITAGE CENTER
(580) 494-6497

www.beaversbend.com

Beavers Bend Area A Visitor's Guide

- Year-Round Trout Fishing
- Canoeing
- Scenic Mountain Views
- Ouachita National Forest
- Broken Bow Lake

WHIP-POOR-WILL RESORT and FUDGE FACTORY



- Log cabins with fireplaces, cable TV, grills, fully equipped kitchens and linens
- Fish pond, playground, gazebo
- Located at entrance to beautiful Cedar Creek Golf Course
- Near Broken Bow Lake and Mountain Fork Trout River

Write or call for reservations:
Star Route, Box 38
Broken Bow, OK 74728
(580) 494-6476

www.okresort.com



Hochatown JUNCTION RESORTS

- Cedar Creek Resort
- Fully Equipped Cabins (Stone Fireplaces, Decks, Porches, TV)
- Quartz Hiking Trails
- Group Lodge
- Stocked Ponds
- Near 18 hole PGA Golf Course and Trout River
- Fly Fishing Headquarters

(800) 550-6521
(580) 494-6521 • (580) 494-6790
Rt. 4, Box 27, Hwy. 259 North,
Broken Bow, OK 74728

Lake Pine Retreat

Cabins • RV Sites
Equestrian Camping
Swimming Pool • Laundry
Groceries • Gifts

Open All Year

Rt. 4, Box 36
Broken Bow, OK 74728
(580) 494-6464

The Charles Wesley Motor Lodge & Restaurant

50 Rooms • Cable TV • HBO
Direct Dial Phones • Pool

302 N. Park Drive
Broken Bow, OK 74728
(580) 584-3303 • Fax (580) 584-3433

MOUNTAINTOP FAMILY ESCAPE

Take in the beauty of southeastern Oklahoma from our large mountaintop cabins. All cabins equipped with:
Panoramic Mountain Views • Central Heat and Air • Fireplaces
Large Decks • Barbecue Grills • Fully Equipped Kitchens

PECKERWOOD KNOB CABINS

13 mi. N of Smithville, 1/2 mi. off Highway 259
Call for reservations (580) 494-7333

HILLBILLY HIDEAWAY

Rustic cabins nestled in the woods in the beautiful Kiamichi foothills.

- Kitchenettes
- Satellite television with 40-plus channels
- Private bedrooms

Call now for reservations:
(580) 241-7845



BEAVERS BEND LAKEVIEW LODGE

Nestled in the Kiamichi Mountains on Broken Bow Lake, Lakeview Lodge rooms feature modern furnishings, cable, and complimentary breakfast. All rooms offer sparkling lake views.

For reservations call (580) 494-6179.
For more information on Kiamichi Country
call (800) 722-8180.
www.beaversbend.com



On the banks of Glover River in a remote wilderness setting... TREE TOP VIEW CABINS

Rustic but modern cabins • All decks overlook Glover River
Fully equipped kitchens and linens • Sleeps 6 • Privacy
John-boat or canoe furnished • Good hunting and fishing

Tree Top View Cabins • Battiest, OK 74722 • (580) 241-5599
www.infinitemall.com/treetop

RED, YELLOW, AND GREEN THUMB



Some things are just better in Oklahoma, says Dr. Lou Anella, assistant professor of horticulture and landscape architecture at OSU. Anella's team of researchers and educators in Stillwater, along with the Oklahoma Botanical Garden and Arboretum, spend their days in two pursuits—investigating those plants that grow best in the state's climate and educating gardeners about little-known gems for their beds and yards. An example: the seaside alter, seen only in Maryland, Delaware, and Oklahoma—on the Tishomingo River. “No one knows how it got here,” says Anella. “Wouldn't it be great if we could spread this plant?” Surveying commercial nurseries across the state each year, the OSU botanists come up with an annual list of preferred trees, flowers, and shrubs, which is then published in poster format. This year's list includes the shady Chinese pistache (seen here), powis castle, oakleaf hydrangea, and purple fountain grass. 🍃

—Louisa McCune

Contrary to the notion of spring fever, fall is terrific for gardening according to Dr. Lou Anella. Here are his tips to guide you through the autumn season:

Plant, Plant, Plant ...

And not only spring flowering bulbs. Squeeze in some lettuce, radishes, greens, and maybe even peas in the vegetable garden. Beef up your flower beds by dividing perennials or purchasing new plants. Trees and shrubs can be planted now, too. A trip to the nursery will allow you to choose plants based on their fall color.

Prepare Next Year's Beds

Start working the soil now. Kill that Bermuda grass with an herbicide (if you're not opposed to chemical treatments) before it goes dormant, and add organic matter to the entire bed. After gazing through mail-order catalogues all winter, you'll be ready to plant once the garden is tilled again in the spring.

Don't Be Too Tidy

Sure, you should remove rotting fruit and diseased leaves to minimize the overwintering of disease organisms, but leave strong-stemmed plants like dried ornamental grasses and their seed heads for winter interest. Seed heads and other debris also provide food for critters from birds to earthworms.

Don't Forget to Water

As the garden winds down and winter approaches, we assume the garden does not need water. Not so. Evergreens are particularly susceptible to winter desiccation, as are newly established plants. Renewing the mulch will help keep in needed moisture, and irrigation may be required during dry winter months.

We're rolling out the welcome mats.



At the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, we're working to make your travel experience more pleasurable. That's why we assisted the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department with the construction of three highway welcome centers on turnpikes at Walters, Miami, and Kansas, Oklahoma. Stop by one of the new travel information centers on your next trip. We'll give you maps, brochures—and a free cup of coffee.

Quality. Safety. Convenience.
That's why we're the Road Experts.



OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
The Road Experts



IN the New
Millennium,
4 out of 5
Extraterrestrials
Will prefer
Natural Gas.



Sure, their saucers run on anti-matter. Their time travel pods are powered by a single micron of Bryfusium 4x. But there's one fuel that even the smartest Martians can't improve upon – pure Oklahoma Natural Gas. Because no matter who our future customers may be, they'll know it's the best value in the universe. The progression of time and wondrous new technologies cannot improve on natural gas. It is, and always will be, clean and economical. Just the way Mother Earth made it.



OKLAHOMA
NATURAL
GAS
A DIVISION OF ONEOK

Pure Oklahoma